FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 DECEMBER 1986

Lebanon

Camps War — Fighting continued in Maghdushah 9 December despite the announcement in Damascus of another cease-fire agreement and the imminent withdrawal of Palestinian forces from the area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The PNSF and the Amal Movement had reached a new agreement whereby the Palestinians would evacuate Maghdushah 9 December in favor of Hizballah, according to Palestinian sources in Damascus cited by the radio. Reports by Beirut radio and Radio Monte Carlo confirmed the agreement for a Palestinian withdrawal but did not mention Hizballah. Beirut radio also cited a UAE press report that the PLO has sent fresh troops into Lebanon.

In Tunis, the Lebanese ambassador told Arab foreign ministers that their meeting on the camps war constitutes a violation of Lebanese sovereignty, Voice of National Resistance Radio reported. For the PLO's part, Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas proposed that the Arab states send military observers to supervise a cease-fire, Radio Free Lebanon noted. Kuwait radio subsequently cited a TAP report that a majority of delegates had rejected the drafting committee's proposal on the camps war because of its weakness, adding that the committee is expected to prepare a "stronger" proposal for consideration at the meeting.

Christian Leadership — Samir Ja'ja' was elected commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces Command Council during the council's inaugural meeting 8 December, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Karim Paqraduni becomes deputy commander in chief and George 'Adwan is the council's secretary general for political affairs. The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee had announced its decision to transform itself into a Command Council in a 5 December statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, noting that this is in accordance with a desire for "more comprehensive representation" within the Forces.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told two visiting U.S. senators that violations of public order in the occupied territories are the result of PLO "incitement," Jerusalem radio reported. According to *Ha'Aretz*, Shamir gave the senators a message for King Husayn, informing the latter of Israel's desire for closer ties with Jordan in the face of the PLO's attempts to strengthen its position in the territories. However, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in a Jerusalem radio interview that he knows nothing about any such message. Peres also expressed regret over the U.S. abstention in the U.S. Security Council vote on a resolution condemning Israel's conduct in the occupied territories.

Reporting on the continuing rioting in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted that IDF soldiers opened fire at youths from the Balatah refugee camp 8 December, disclosing that four youths were injured by gunfire and that a 12-year-old boy died in a Nabulus hospital. However, an investigation into the boy's death showed that he died before the shooting by IDF soldiers, the radio said, adding that the investigation is continuing. Another Arab youth was wounded in a scuffle with an Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip 9 December, the radio disclosed. Meanwhile, the Egyptian foreign minister instructed his ambassador in Tel Aviv to convey Egypt's request that Israel halt its "suppressive" measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, MENA noted.

In further comment on the U.S.-Iran arms affair, Prime Minister Shamir told Likud MK's that Israel might have secured the release of IDF personnel captured in Lebanon if the U.S.-Iran deal had not been leaked and thereby sabotaged, according to Jerusalem radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Continuing its retaliation for Iraqi "mischief," Iran fired three short-range "Eagle" missiles on industrial and economic centers in Basra 9 December, IRNA reported. The agency also reported that Iranian shelling the previous day inflicted "heavy damage" on a power plant and factories in Basra as well as roads and railway facilities. A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio noted that 12 civilians were killed when Iranian shells fell on residential areas of Basra.

Regarding Iraqi action against Iran, the communique said that aircraft launched successful raids on several power stations 8 December, including the installations at Arak. IRNA accused Iraqi warplanes of killing five civilians in a raid near Kangavar. A statement cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced an Iraqi air strike against the "heart" of the Hamadan power plant 9 December.

In the aftermath of previous action in the Gulf, INA cited a Lloyds report that a Maltese tanker off the Iranian coast was "severely damaged" by a missile 7 December. The UAE oil minister thanked his Iranian counterpart for Iran's offer to help repair the Abu al-Bakhush oil platform which was damaged by "Iraqi bombing raids" 25 November, IRNA reported.

Kuwait

The State Security court sentenced a Jordanian to 20 years imprisonment for his part in bomb attacks and shootings at Kuwaiti coffee shops in July 1985, KUNA reported. The court also sentenced two other men to imprisonment in absentia, KUNA said, noting that two Jordanians are under arrest in connection with the affair, while three others remain at large.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received GUNT Chairman Acheikh ibn Oumar, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio

reported. Upon arrival in Tripoli 6 December, Oumar told JANA that Chadian factions were "compelled" to resolve "internal contradictions" by dismissing former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei for "high treason."

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with an Egyptian opposition delegation led by Ibrahim Shukri in Damascus, Tripoli radio noted.

Egypt

The minister of economy and foreign trade and the chairman of the USSR state bank signed a protocol in Cairo following 2 weeks of talks on financial, trade, and economic relations, TASS reported. According to Voice of the Mountain, a clandestine Lebanese radio, the Soviet Union agreed to renegotiate Egypt's military debt.

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Resistance Leader Denies U.S. Financial Aid

PM081152 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Dec 86 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Series of Revelations and Denials on 'Swiss Connection'"]

[Excerpt] While making a brief stopover in Paris on Wednesday 3 December, Burhanuddin Rabbani, spokesman for the Islamic Mujahidin Alliance, the main Afghan resistance coalition, categorically denied that the United States and Saudi Arabia have each given his movement financial aid worth $250 million, deposited in a secret Swiss bank account. "Not only do I deny this, I categorically deny it. This is all just propaganda," he said. Mr Rabbani was due to leave Paris on Thursday for a 1-week visit to Africa (Gabon, Senegal, Niger).

The Washington Post, citing unnamed Congress investigators, reported on Wednesday that the funds from the secret arms sales to Iran had been used to finance not only the Nicaraguan "contras" but also the Afghan rebels and that these sums of money had been paid through the same Swiss bank account. [passage omitted]

Karachi Says 3 Army Officers Join Mujahidin

BK090258 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, three officers of the 70th Brigade of the Soviet-Najib army have reportedly joined the mujahidin. According to a report, they had sent their family members to the mujahidin-controlled area before defection.

Another report says the mujahidin attacked the communist military posts at Bala Morghab area of Herat Province in the 2d week of the last month and destroyed one of them. All the Najib soldiers stationed on the post were either killed or wounded in this attack.

In another operation in Nangarhar area, the mujahidin inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the Soviet-Najib forces. Five soldiers surrendered themselves to the mujahidin.

There has been a major clash in the Daman area of Qandahar as well, according to the Kabul Radio.

Armed Forces' Operation Reported in Qandahar

LD081850 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The military correspondent of BIA in his report from the District of Daman, Qandahar Province, writes that as a result of a heroic attack by soldiers, NCO's and officers of the Armed Forces on the nests and hideouts of the counterrevolutionaries, crushing blows have been inflicted on the enemy.

As a result of these successful operations, a number of these criminals, who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants of that district, with their destructive and antihuman deeds, were crushed. A number of them along with their weapons were captured by the country's security forces.

The report further adds that several hideouts and strong positions of the enemy were destroyed as a result of the heroic attack by the country's security forces and a large amount of combat arms and ammunition, including heavy weapons, antipersonnel and anti vehicle mines, hand grenades, and transportation equipment were seized by the security forces and a large number of them were destroyed.

Mujahidin Kill 20 Troops in Baghlan Province

BK071116 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Delayed reports from Afghanistan say 20 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed when the mujahidin stormed 5 security posts in the vicinity of Andrab Town near Salang highway in Baghlan Province on the 22d of last month. Besides destroying three security posts, the mujahidin seized heavy arms and ammunition during the operation.

Down Cargo Plane

BK070612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] According to a delayed report, Afghan mujahidin shot down a cargo plane east of Kabul on the 21st of last month. It is reported that all 30 persons on board the plane were killed. The plane was being used to transport Soviet-Kabul troops.

Foil Soviet-Kabul Attack; Kill 200

BK061111 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, 200 Soviet-Kabul troops are reported to have been killed when Afghan mujahidin repulsed their attack last week in Parvan Province. A jet fighter, a helicopter, and a number of tanks and military vehicles were also damaged.

Down 4 Helicopter Gunships

BK060829 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down four helicopter gunships in Nangarhar Province during the last 10 days of heavy fighting. The report said two of the helicopters were returning from Konar Province after conducting an air raid on the mujahidin strongholds. The other two helicopters which were on a security flight over the Kabul-Jalalabad highway were shot down on the 28th of the last month. Another report says the Afghan mujahidin killed 15 Soviet-Kabul troops in a subdivision of Ghor and destroyed a tank and two armored cars.

Gandhi Welcomes Merger of Congress Parties

BK081756 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed the merger of Congress-S with Congress-I. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing a mammoth public rally in Aurangabad today after the plenary session of the Congress-S, lead by Mr Sarat Pawar, adopted the unity resolution at its all-India convention. The prime minister declared that with the merger of the two parties, the Indian National Congress has become once again stronger. He said that the unity of the congress has augured well for strengthening the ideals of freedom, democracy, socialism, and secularism in the country. He said the congress has stood for these values and ideals since its birth. He warned against weakening these ideals and pointed out that internal and external forces are trying to undermine the unity and integrity of the country.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that all efforts should be made to isolate terrorists in Punjab and assured that the center will take all necessary steps to eliminate them.

Addressing the rally, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that from Kashmir to Kaniya Kumari, India is one nation and called upon the people to remain vigilant to maintain its unity and integrity. Dr Abdullah warned Pakistan against having any evil designs against India.

Mr Sarat Pawar, who was speaking on the occasion, said his party has decided to merge its identity with the Congress-I as the country was faced with danger from antinational and divisive forces. He said his party was convinced that Mr Rajiv Gandhi will steer the country successfully through the present critical period. Maharashtra chief minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi, the prime minister said the center is very clear about its responsibilities relating [to] the Punjab and there would be no shirking of these responsibilities. Mr Gandhi said the center had not taken direct action in any of the subjects in the state list as it required a material change in the center's relationship with the states. Terrorism was not there 40 years ago and the constituent assembly did not look at it. The prime minister suggested a national debate on certain types of terrorism.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations of the meeting, the parliamentary party secretary, Mr R.P. Panikar, said Mr Gandhi suggested to some legislations for management on public sector undertakings with greater accountability.

On Sri Lanka, the prime minister said he had gone through certain proposals received from that country. These are quite good and have covered most of the points of the ethnic problem. One or two ticklish points are there which require clarification.

Referring to Mr Gorbachev's recent visit, Mr Gandhi said that the new phase in Indo-Soviet relations will give greater cooperation for both countries.

Bill for New State of Arunachal Pradesh Passed

BK081312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The Lok Sabha today gave its approval to the proposal for conferring statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. It passed a Constitution amendment bill by 338 votes in favor and 34 against. The House also adopted the state of Arunachal Pradesh bill. Under the provisions the new state of Arunachal Pradesh will have a 40-member legislative assembly. However, until a new House is elected the existing assembly with 30 members will continue as a provisional assembly. The governor will have speacial responsibility with regard to law and order. He will excercise his individual judgment to the action to be taken after consulting the Council of Ministers.

Earlier, intervening in the discussion, the prime minister said the measure will fulfill the political aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and help in their cultural and economic development. Congratulating the people of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr Rajiv Gandhi assured the members that the customary laws and practices of the tribals will be fully protected. Referring to the criticism by some members, Mr Gandhi said special powers to the governor is absolutely essential in view of the sensitive location of the state.

The proposal to confer statehood on Arunachal Pradesh received wide support from the members. Some, however, expressed reservation about special powers being provided for the governor. Most of the members pleaded for a 60-member assembly.

Replying to the discussion, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, assured the House that the inalien regulations will continue to be enforced in Arunachal Pradesh, thereby preventing encroachment by outsiders. The northeastern council will take up many schemes for the development of the new state.

Ministers To Visit Sri Lanka for Tamil Talks

BK081659 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Two ministers are visiting Sri Lanka from the 17th of this month to resume the dialogue on finding a solution to the ethnic problem in that country. They are the minister of state for home affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram; amd the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh. Before their 3-day visit to Colombo, they will be in Madras on the 15th and 16th for talks with the Tamil Nadu chief minister and the Sri Lankan Tamil groups.

Foreign Minister on Border Talks With PRC

BK080959 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0854 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In response to a question tabled by Chitta Basu regarding the recent efforts made by the Government of India in the direction of peaceful solution of border disputes between India and China and the results thereof, Narayana Dutt Tiwari, min-

ister of external affairs, stated in Rajya Sabha on 2 December 1986 as under:

It is the policy of the Government of India to find a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the boundary question with China consistent with national honour and sovereignty. The recent efforts made in this direction are:

At the seventh round of the official level talks in Beijing in July 1986, substantive discussions were continued on the eastern sector of the boundary. Discussions on the western sector were also initiated. The question of the recent Chinese intrusion in Sumdorong Chu Valley of Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh was taken up by the leader of the Indian delegation, Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran, with the acting Chinese premier, Wan Li, as well as with the Chinese foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian.

At his meeting with the Chinese foreign minister in New York on 18 September 1986 the then external affairs minister, P. Shiv Shankar, while discussing the Chinese intrusion had emphasised that the Chinese Government should not have taken recourse to such action and that they should instead have consulted with the Government of India if there were any doubts as to the location of the surrounding areas and the relative alignment of the Mcmahon Line.

Karnataka Violence Protests Published Story

1 Killed; Editor Arrested

BK081401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In the southern state of Karnataka, one person was killed in the police firing in the renewed violence in Shivaji Nagar area of Bangalore. With this the death toll in police firing has risen to nine. Today the police resorted to firing after their efforts to quell a violent mob failed.

The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has ordered a judicial inquiry into yesterday's disturbances and the police firing.

Meanwhile, police have arrested both the editor and the publisher of the *Deccan Herald* — the English daily — which published an article reportedly causing violence in the city.

Mysore Under 'Night Curfew'

BK090315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, night curfew has been clamped in the riot-torn areas of Mysore where four people were killed in firing last evening. Our Bangalore correspondent reports that the situation in Mysore has improved despite tension in some areas. The violence, which began in Bangalore on Sunday following the publication of an article in a local daily, continued for the 2d day yesterday. A mob tried to set on fire a godown of the newspaper which published the story. One person was killed when the police opened fire, while five of those injured in Sunday's violence succumbed to their injuries. According to the new city police commissioner, Mr Balakrishna, the situation is now under control. The newspaper concerned has once again published an apology on the front page and appealed to the people to maintain peace. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has also renewed his appeal to the people of the two cities to shun violence.

Violence Spreads; Curfew Extended

BK090907 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Reports from Karnataka say that violence has spread to some more areas. One person was killed in Tunkur, 70 kms from Bangalore, when police opened fire this morning to quell mob violence. The police say that firing was resorted [to] when miscreants started burning public property. The violence followed controversy over a story published by a newspaper some days ago. In Mysore, the authorities have extended the curfew in troubled areas of the city where four persons were killed in police firing yesterday. Seventy six persons have been taken into custody so far in Mysore.

Prohibitory orders have been issued throughout Belgaum District for a week from today as a preacutionary measure. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has flown back to Bangalore, cancelling all his engagements in Belgaum District to review the situation. Prohibitory orders have also been issued in five cities of Dharwar District. No violence has been reported in Bangalore since late last night.

Meanwhile, the home minister, Mr Bhuta Singh, has appealed to all those agitating to accept the unconditional apology of the editor and treat the matter as closed. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Buta Singh said peace and communal harmony is the need of the hour. He said he has urged the chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, to ensure that such provocative stories are not published again. He said the center has offered all assistance to the state government. Mr Buta Singh also conveyed his sympathy to the families of those killed in the violence.

Death Toll Increases to 11

BK081655 Dehi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, six persons were killed in police firing today in two separate incidents as the violence spread to other parts of the state. Five persons have been killed at Mysore while one was killed at Bangalore in police firing. Five persons, who were injured in yesterday's police firing in Bangalore, succumbed to their injuries today. With this, the death toll in yesterday's firing in Bangalore has risen to 11. At Mysore, the police had to open fire as mobs agitating over an article published by an English daily from Bangalore which hurt the religious feelings of the community turned violent and tried to set fire to public property.

Disturbances are also reported from Kolar, 70 km from Bangalore. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has ordered a judicial inquiry into yesterday's disturbances and the police

firing. The state government has announced compensation of 20,000 rupees to each of the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, police arrested both the editor and the publisher of the *Deccan Herald* which published an article reportedly leading to violence in the city. They were later released on bail.

'Prohibitory Orders' Extended 3 Days in Delhi

BK090322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The Delhi police have placed restrictions on articles permitted to be taken inside cinema halls and places of public entertainment. No box, handbag, or any container fit to conceal arms and ammunition will be allowed inside from today for the next 2 months. Meanwhile, prohibitory orders have been extended in the capital for 3 more days.

Sikh 'Militants' Prepare 'Hit-List of Traitors'

BK081407 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Dec 8 (AFP) — Sikh militants battling for an independent Sikh homeland in the Punjab said Monday they were preparing a new hit-list of "traitors" to the Sikh cause.

A militant faction of the All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) announced here that it had set up a group to prepare a list of "Sikh traitors responsible for desecrating Sikh temples, police informers, and police officials responsible for repression and killings of Sikh youths." AISSF office secretary Gurbaj Singh said in a news release: "The list would be sent to organisations like the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) for action and elimination."

The KLF is one of several Sikh groups waging a bloody campaign for an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan in the Punjab. The group claimed responsibility for a November 30 massacre of 24 Hindus in the state which sparked protests all over northern India.

Mr Gurbaj Singh said Monday that the "secret intelligence agency" the AISSF had raised to prepare the new hit-list would start working by January 1st. The group would comprise ten "intelligence officials and 100 staff members" in each of the Punjab's 12 districts, he said.

Sikh militants spearheading the five-year-old separatist campaign reportedly have a hit-list with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Zail Singh high on it. Several politicians of India's ruling Congress (I) and the Punjab's police chief Julio Ribeiro also figure on the list.

Economic Talks With USSR Set To Begin 9 Dec

LD081637 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 8, IRNA — The tenth ministerial session of the Permanent Commission for Tehran-Moscow Economic Cooperation is to be held here Tuesday after a six-year delay.

Soviet Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev arrived here Monday to attend the session. The Soviet official is here at the invitation of Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, who will head a ranking Iranian economic delegation at the meet.

Upon his arrival, the Soviet official said that the two countries enjoy historical, economic, and commercial cooperation. He added that a number of agreements involving the execution of industrial plans in the fields of energy and metallurgy have been signed by the two countries. The Soviet official noted that execution of previously signed agreements will be discussed during the commission as well as future joint economic plans.

Katushev said that the USSR views the talks as important. He also expressed hope that the negotiations would be a 'big leap' in future cooperation between the USSR and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian minister who welcomed the Soviet delegation at the airport termed the holding of such meetings 'useful'. He said there is a great deal of room to expand bilateral commercial relations. Iravani said that the purpose for the formation of the commission is to study what areas the two can collaborate as well as future Tehran-Moscow economic relations.

The Iranian minister further said that talks are to be held on steel plant, power stations, transport, fisheries, and commercial issues. A protocol will be signed at the end of the session, said Iravani.

The Soviet delegation is also scheduled to confer with Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi as well as some ministers.

Iravani Comments on Upcoming Talks

LD082226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Interview with Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani by unidentified correspondent on the session of the Permanent Joint Economic Cooperation Council between the USSR and Iran; date, place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr Iravani, the esteemed minister of economy and finance and leader of the Iranian delegation in discussions with the Soviet delegation, please tell us about the issues to be discussed in this session and your expectations for the talks.

[Iravani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In view of the neighborliness that exists between Iran and the USSR, the long-lasting bilateral economic relations, and the transformation that has taken place in the expansion and development of good-neighborly bilateral relations, His Excellency Mr Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and a high-ranking delegation, have come to Tehran at my invitation in order to convene the 10th session of the Permanent Joint Economic Cooperation Council between the two countries. This session will officially start its work tomorrow morning. Mr Katushev and his accompanying delegation will hold talks with a number of ministers. This session is being convened again in Tehran after 6 years. Prior to its convening a number of Soviet and Iranian expert teams have exchanged views. There have been many discussions in the fields of steel mill engineering, power stations, fisheries, agriculture, transportation, commerce, and other economic activities. During this visit the protocol of the 10th session of the economic council will be signed by Mr Katushev and myself. This session will be held every year alternatively in Tehran and Moscow.

[Correspondent] As a result of this session, what will be the level of relations between the two countries?

[Iravani] It is clear that we regard the revival of the permanent council for economic cooperation between the two countries after 6 years as a positive step. This council will undoubtedly act to solve the difficulties that have existed and that have accumulated in bilateral relations. We will delineate the future outlook of economic relations between the two countries. We believe that this session will render very constructive assistance to bilateral cooperation.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Arrives 4 Dec

NC050615 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] Sierra Leone's foreign minister arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking political delegation and was welcomed by our Foreign Minister Velayati.

In an interview with our correspondent on the goals of his trip, Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma said: The members of my delegation and I are quite happy to be here in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is yet another step in the expansion of relations between our two countries. He added: I am carrying a message from my president to Mr Khamene'i.

As for those areas where our ties could be deepened, Mr Koroma explained: Deapite the fact that our two states established relations in the fairly recent past, our economic and cultural cooperation has been quite good. This delegation's visit and its talks in the Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly increase the understanding between us.

Meets With Hoseyn Musavi

LD061647 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 6, IRNA — Visiting Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma met with Prime Minister Hoseyn

Musavi here Saturday. At the meeting, also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali-Reza Mo'ayeri, Koroma lauded the Iranian people for their firm resistance against the cultural, economic, and political aggressions of colonialist powers. He stressed that Iran's victory over foreign aggressions could set a good precedent for Third World [countries] and enable them to solve their difficulties. Koroma said his country was interested in further expanding her ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, Prime Minister Musavi underlined the importance of unity among Third World countries, saying that solidarity and understanding between Iran and Sierra Leone in their confrontation with colonialist powers could be a good investment in expanding relations between the two countries. Musavi also noted that Third World countries should rely on one another in an effort to attain independence and cut their dependence on foreign powers. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to further promote her ties with the Third World in various areas, the prime minister said.

Referring to Iran's neither-East-nor-West policy, Musavi said that the Third World can rely on Islamic Iran in their independence struggles. "We welcome the anti-colonialist spirit of the people of Sierra Leone as well as the government's desire to expand relations with Iran," Musavi added.

Meets Aqazadeh, Rafiqdust

LD062018 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 6, IRNA — Visiting Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma met with Iran's Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday. At the meeting the two sides discussed Tehran-Freetown economic and commercial relations and ways to further expand them. Aqazadeh said that Iran will assist Sierra Leone in meeting its energy requirements. Aqazadeh accepted an invitation from Koroma to visit Sierra Leone, the date to be fixed at a later date.

Meanwhile, Koroma met separately with ministers of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust on the same day and told him that his country longs for Iran to be victorious in the Iraqi imposed war. He added that Western countries especially U.S. imperialism were accomplices in the war imposed on Iran by Iraq. Koroma further said that the people of his country are inspierd by the Iranian nation's resistance.

The IRGC minister in response said that the global powers build their strength on the weakness of others. Rafiqdust said that Iran's power is at the service of friendly countries. The Sierra Leonean official arrived here on Dec 4 at the head of a delegation.

Holds Talks With Majlis Speaker

NC071142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma met and talked with Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashmi-Rafsanjani yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and a number of Majlis deputies, Mr Koroma said: We pay close attention to the success of the Islamic Revolution and we believe that the developments here benefit not only Iran, but all the world's oppressed peoples as well. It is actually a lesson for all those who lived under colonialism and are striving to regain their identity. He added: We in Sierra Leone, like other African countries, experienced colonial rule brought to us by others. This is why we find it difficult to trust the superpowers today. However, we are confident of our friendship with such countries as the Islamic Republic of Iran and we are grateful for its assistance in solving the problems of African states.

Referring to the fact that Sierra Leone's parliamentary system was inherited from the British, Mr Koroma expressed hope that the exchange of parliamentary delegations would allow its problems and defects to be overcome. In so doing, the progress which Iran has made with its parliamentary system would be used.

For his part, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was happy to be in the presence of African brothers from a country with a Muslim majority. He noted: We consider Africa a potentially revolutionary and, to a great extent, Islamic continent. Thus, any African official who comes to Iran makes us happy and optimistic that we can come to some meeting of the minds. Thanks to our Islamic programs and congresses in Sierra Leone, we have good information available and have high hopes for your country's future. We feel that if Africa's native and popular forces come on to the scene, they can save Africa from the Westerners, who have committed, and who continue to commit, fraud on the continent. In our opinion, Western culture is one obstacle to the African people's freedom, independence, and well-being. Our experience with the Islamic Revolution has shown that the more we distance ourselves from Western culture, the clearer is the road to the revolution's consolidation and development. The Westerners apparently realized that Islam would be a great and uncontrollable force in Africa's future, which explains their efforts to hinder the progress of Muslims.

Turning to the fact that the influence of Muslims on Africa's political and economic life is not commensurate with their numbers and that this is not in Africa's interests, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted: It appears that Islam is the culture that can be shared by the greatest number of Africans. The differences among native Africans over questions of nationhood and other legacies from the West prevent their progress and independence. In addition, the revolutionary approach to Islam is less apparent in other fields as well. Stressing the fact that Iran has benefited greatly from Islam, the Majlis speaker declared: Had we relied on anything other than Islam, we would have been defeated both in the war and by the plots of foreign enemies. He added: Obviously, the deprivation of Africans is an impetus for us in and of itself. If we can help, we will do all we can to help overcome the oppression which Africa has suffered and continues to suffer. Although we are at war and are busy dealing with its effects, we have spared no effort thus far. At any rate, you can — both as an oppressed country and as one with a Muslim majority — have complete faith in your friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Delivers Message to Khamene'i

NC071413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit notes that Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma, who is in our country at the head of a high-ranking political delegation, met with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday afternoon and delivered a message from his president to Iran's Islamic president. [passage omitted]

Sierra Leone's foreign minister said: The victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution has opened new paths for those of us who have suffered the bitter experience of centuries of colonialism. Turning to our president's remarks at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran, he declared: Your comments and the question of freedom that you raised have inspired us. We believe that neither communism nor capitalism can ensure true freedom, and that only a third force — Islam — can teach mankind true liberty. He added: We are well aware of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fighting an enemy encouraged by foreign powers. We trust you will emerge victorious in this struggle. He closed by calling for greater political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

In reply, Mr Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the message from the Sierra Leonean president and said: We have a feeling of responsibility as far as the problems faced by the Third World are concerned. We sympathize with Third World states, particularly with African nations. Referring to plots by the forces of global arrogance in the Third World, our president pointed out: At a time when the great powers are constantly scheming and creating problems for the Third World, our most urgent duty is to come closer together and solve each others' problems.

On the clashes in Southern Lebanon, Mr Khamene'i said: This Lebanese problem, the problem of the oppressed Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, which I touched upon at yesterday's Friday prayers ceremony, and the other troubles that have been forced on these oppressed peoples are among the conspiracies of the great powers and the results of interference by the world's big hegemonists. We all have duties in connection with this. Our president continued: It has been made clear everywhere that the arrogant powers are vulnerable today and that Third World countries can win if they are vigilant. It was against a background of conflict in Southern Lebanon and Beirut that we came on to the scene, and, fortunately, the Muslims of Lebanon and the Amal Movement, as well as the Palestinian groups, agreed to the Islamic Republic's cease-fire plan. The cease-fire has been a source of happiness, and I hope it will hold. Mr Khamene'i added: One can see the plots and meddling hand of world arrogance directed against oppressed nations in every part of the world. The problems of northern, southern, and western Africa have been imposed by the big powers. Africa is a land rich in wealth and blessings. It has good people and is capable of solving its problems. In any case, we are prepared to deepen our relations with the Third World in all political, technical, and economic fields. When world arrogance saw this, it imposed the war on our nation. However, this conflict will end favorably, God willing.

Concludes Visit; Departs 7 Dec

LD071441 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma concluded his two-day official visit to Iran and left here for Freetown Sunday.

During his stay, Koroma held talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanfani, and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on ways to further expand Iran-Sierra Leone relations. Prior to his departure, Koroma explained the outcome of his visit to reporters and said both his country and the Islamic Republic fully agree with the need to support the oppressed nations.

Meanwhile, [Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar] Velayati said that a joint communique on the outcome of Koroma's visit to Tehran would be released soon. He also said that he and Koroma had agreed that high ranking Iranian and Sierra Leonean delegations would visit each other's country to follow up the talks.

Joint Communique Issued

NC080807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at the conclusion of the visit to Iran by Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma, he and the Iranian foreign minister have issued a joint communique. In this communique both sides express satisfaction over the growing relations between the two countries. They call for the consolidation of joint cooperation at the international level and reject intervention by world arrogance in the destiny of the Third World.

Declaring their support for the struggles of the Muslim and combatant Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the Zionist occupier, the two sides conclude that continuation of the struggle until the liberation of all the occupied territories is the only way to resist the Zionist regime, the subservient pawn of world arrogance.

Referring to recent clashes between some groups in Lebanon, the two ministers describe these as a plot by imperialism and Zionism. They call on various elements in that country to preserve their unity and solidarity and to mobilize all their strength and resources against the Zionist enemy, concentrating their attacks on this enemy in order to liberate all the occupied territories.

The two countries also express aversion to the system of apartheid in South Africa and condemn that regime's attacks on Frontline States. They also condemn harsh repression of demonstrations and the heroic struggle of the true owners of the land, calling for an end to apartheid and for the establishment of rule based on majority vote by the blacks in that part of the world. They also stress the importance of Namibia's gaining independence, as soon as possible, based on international organizations' stipulations and the immediate withdrawal of the South African occupying forces.

In this communique Iran and Sierra Leone express their support for consolidating the Nonaligned Movement and call for purging this movement of elements unfaithful to its principles. They express hope that the movement can, aside from its specific trends and working decisions, play a more effective role in solving member-countries' problems.

The two sides also strongly condemn the recent crime perpetrated by the South African racist regime — the murder of late President Samora Machel of Mozambique and his entourage in an attack on their plane — and call for international measures and an escalation of struggles by this area's nations to overthrow these enemies of mankind as soon as possible.

Condemning the occupation of Afghanistan by foreign occupying forces and the massacre of innocent Afghan people, the two sides call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of these aggressive forces and for self-determination for the Muslim and combatant Afghan people.

In the joint communique the two countries condemn aggression by any country against another. Describing aggression as contrary to recognized international principles, the two sides condemn the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and state that the Islamic Republic has the right to defend itself until the aggressor is punished. Regarding the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Iraqi regime, the two sides condemn attacks on cities and residential areas; threats to aviation routes; attacks on tankers, passenger aircraft, and railways; and the use of chemical weapons — acts with which the Iraqi regime tries to create insecurity in the region and which are contrary to all accepted international principles and norms — and they appeal to international organizations to condemn the Iraqi regime for these crimes.

Expressing regret over the reestablishment of relations between some African countries and the regime occupying Jerusalem, the two sides describe any expansion of this regime's presence in the Third World as a threat to the nations of the Third World and warn them against maintaining relations with a regime that has committed crimes and aggressions such as those in Lebanon and Palestine and which has cooperated extensively with the South African regime in political, economic, cultural, military, and nuclear fields.

In this communique Sierra Leone praises the important gains of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the brave resistance of the Muslim people of Iran against imperialism, Zionism, and the imposed war and expresses its gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting the oppressed of the world and the nations of the Third World.

Agreement Signed To Resume Ties With Congo

LD071731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry announced: In accordance with a joint communique signed by the legal undersecretary of our country's Foreign Ministry and the Congolese foreign minister, the two countries decided to resume their long-standing diplomatic relations from 25 November this year.

Khatami Returns From Pakistan; Accords Signed

LD071451 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Minister of Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami who had led a cultural delegation to Pakistan since December 2 arrived here via Dubayy Sunday. During his five-day visit, Khatami met with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and submitted them messages from their Iranian counterparts Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i and Hoseyn Musavi. The Ershad-e Eslami minister also underlined the need to further strengthen Iran-Pakistan cultural relations in his meetings with other Pakistani officials.

A letter of understanding was also signed between the two countries during Khatami's visit on the basis of which the cooperation between the *Islamic Republic News Agency* (IRNA) and the Pakistani news agency was extended for another three years. Tehran-Islamabad cooperation in the fields of cinema, radio, and television is also contained in the letter of understanding.

In a press conference held in Lahore Saturday night Khatami described the propaganda of Western mass media that Iran has relations with the regime occupying Palestine as "futile efforts" to whitewash the White House scandal, and said such propaganda is doomed to defeat.

Oil Minister Departs for Geneva OPEC Session

LD090614 Tehran IRNA in English 0609 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 9, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh left Tehran for Geneva Tuesday morning where he will attend the 80th session of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Speaking to IRNA prior departure, he said that the main items on the agenda will be production quotas and prices. He said that in the light of cooperation among oil ministers of member countries the session is expected to be successful. One of the main objectives of the Iranian delegation, he stressed, is to reach an agreement on these issues. He also hoped that Iraq will be obliged to cooperate with the OPEC members.

Another issue on the agenda, Aqazadeh told reporters, is election of OPEC secretary general which the organisation has discussed in various sessions with no success for the past four years. However, on the basis of the OPEC's criteria, this term the secretary general must be from Iran, he added, pointing out that this time conditions were better than ever.

On quotas set for members for the months of November and December, he said that new decisions must be made for future and stressed that Iran will accept the present conditions only if Iraq is obliged to observe its quota.

On steps to be taken to raise oil price from the present U.S. dls. 14 to 18, he said that to this end in a fixed period of time

production of members should be curbed. The Geneva session, he said, should set the time period for this purpose, adding that Iran proposed the first of January.

Finally, Aqazadeh said, the session will have to deal with the flexible quota of Saudi Arabia adding that Saudi's output should be reduced.

UAE Sends Thanks for Offer on Bombed Oil Field

LD091001 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Minister of Petroleum and Mines of the United Arab Emirates Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah sent a message to his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh expressing thanks for Iran's proposal to help the UAE repair Abu al-Bakhush oil installations damaged in Iraqi bombing raids. In his message, the UAE minister expressed his sincere interest in the proposal and praised Iran on behalf of the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates. He added that the Iranian oil minister would be informed immediately if the UAE decided to take up the offer.

Following the Iraqi attack on the Abu al-Bakhush oil installations in the Persian Gulf on Nov 25, Iran's oil minister sent a message to his UAE counterpart on Dec 2 announcing Iran's readiness to help repair the damaged installations.

'No Place' in Next Majlis for Oppositionists

PM081131 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Nov 86 p 2

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent untitled report on 25 November Majlis open session]

[Excerpts] Today's open session of the Majlis was held under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

The second speaker at today's Majlis session was Fu'ad Karimi, deputy from Ahvaz. He first paid his condolences to the families of martyrs in Khuzestan and Bakhtaran Provinces and congratulated them.

Karimi then commented on the fall of the liberals and Bani Sadr during the first Majlis: Following their fall, he said, we noticed that a movement had started which was causing rifts in the Majlis and the government. It had in fact caused rifts in the previous cabinet and was pushing some ministers to adopt positions and take sides against the prime minister.

This movement, however, could not achieve its goals during the first Majlis, whose primary task was to give a vote of confidence to the prime minister. Following a brief and private message from the imam, the deputies once again gave their votes to Engineer Musavi. But some deputies thought their views higher than those of the imam and did not give a vote of confidence. [passage omitted]

Karimi continued to give details of the issue, and said: Following Engineer Musavi's introduction to the Majlis, before the Majlis started its open session, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani reminded these gentlemen to pay attention to the political consequences of their voting inside and outside the Majlis and not to weaken the leadership.

They responded by shouting that they were adamant in their position against the leader, recording a total of 99 votes against or abstentions. But the imam acted graciously and advised them that, while those gentlemen had cast their negative votes, from now on a negative vote was against the religious law.

These gentlemen previously made the excuse that the imam's statements took the form of advice and thus stood against the leader, disobeying the imam's direct orders. They continued their attacks against the prime minister and his government, which was in the line of the imam, through their own newspaper, *Resalat*.

This went so far that the imam warned them several times publicly and in private, but the movement continued to act against the imam's orders until the Majlis session last Tuesday [18 November]; then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani told them of the imam's statement that, if these gentlemen continued their actions, the imam would refer the issue to the people and let them deal with these persons. [passage omitted]

Fu'ad Karimi said that he saw this movement's political, economic, and religious positions as deviating from the imam's line. He continued: In the economic arena, this movement defends the feudal lords and capitalists under the cloak of religion, and its political stance is to fight against the government and even the Majlis, again under the cloak of religion. Its aim is to gain political power. On the ideological front it has taken up its position against the imam, saying that the imam's views are merely advice. It has disseminated its views within the framework of religious jurisprudence as against rule by jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih].

The Ahvaz deputy recognized the movement's official organ to be the *Resalat* newspaper. He said: *Resalat* is a mixture of ideologies which differ from the imam's views. Its political line is against the imam's line and its religious views are against the imam's jurisprudence. In short, in religious garb *Resalat* promoted the division of the imam from the nation. It tries to realize a liberal political-economic goal with religious undertones rooted in a free-economy system. [passage omitted] Now the Majlis is concerned about the future and about how the Hezbollah will deal with this movement. We know that the Hezbollah people will determine the fate of this movement, which will be isolated like Bani Sadr and the liberals. There is no place for these people in the next Majlis, and the next Majlis will be completely in the imam's line. [passage omitted]

Majlis Deputies Protest 'Questioning' of Regime

PM081133 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Nov 86 p 18

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent untitled report on continuation of 23 November Majlis open session]

[Excerpts] At 1110 yesterday morning the open Majlis session continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, first deputy speaker. [passage omitted]

At the end of yesterday's session a letter written by eight Majlis deputies to the Majlis leadership was read out. The note withdrew the eight deputies' question to Foreign Minister Dr Velayati last week concerning U.S. contacts with Iran. Here is the text of the letter:

"Respected Leadership of the Majlis,

"Greetings! This letter follows the recent remarks by the nation's imam on the anniversary of the Great Prophet's birth — peace be unto him and his family — and is aimed at following the leader's wise advice completely. It was thought that discussing the question put to the foreign minister in the Majlis would be in the revolution's interest and would receive the imam's consent. After receiving the imam's views, and considering the people's interests, we no longer see the need to put the question.

"Signed: Jalal-Eddin Farsi, Seyyed Mohammad Sirjani, Musaviyani, Nikravesh, Morteza Fahim Kermani, Seyyed Mohammad Khamane'i, Najafi, and Esrafiliyan."

Following the above letter another note, written by a large number of deputies to the imam, was read out:

"To the respected and great leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

"Greetings on the greatest of victories for the people and the regime, which caused great embarrassment and disgrace to the U.S. President. This victory has indeed brought much happiness to the Islamic nation throughout the world.

"This follows your precious statement on the anniversary of the Last Messenger's birth — peace be unto him and his family — and also of Imam Sadiq — peace be unto him — and is in connection with a movement that was against Islam and religion and against the interests of the regime. The movement was launched by a group that causes pain to Your Eminence from time to time. This time, again, instead of shouting against the United States, they started shouting at our own officials, hoping to make this sweet victory bitter for our people.

We Majlis deputies greatly regret to note that this movement was launched by people who have been trying to weaken the Islamic government for some time by publishing untruthful or secret material in their newspaper. They have taken a negative stance in the Majlis, they have backed the rich, the land-grabbers, and the hoarders against the interests of the deprived.

What is even worse and unforgivable, is that they have created a rift among the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran under these wartime conditions and have staged various plots. This small group, which has separated itself from the imam and the nation, has created special circumstances inside and outside the Majlis. Every day its members question the regime's stances and the Islamic government's position. Their only gain from these actions is to weaken the Islamic front and to strengthen the opposition faction.

We, the undersigned, comprise a majority of Majlis deputies. By declaring our hatred of such devilish actions, we announce that we can no longer bear to see pain being caused to our beloved imam. We swear once again that the Majlis is, as ever, in the line of rule by jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and that it will strive to follow the leadership of our exalted leader completely. God willing. [passage omitted]

'Source' Says Iraq Bombed Sayyid Sadiq 3 Dec

LD081737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] An informed source in northern Iraq reports that Iraqi fighter planes bombed Sayyid Sadiq District, in Sulaymaniyah Province, on Wednesday [3 December]. According to this report, officials of the Ba'thist regime consider the Sayyid Sadiq District to be a place where Iraqi Army deserters congregate and where operations by opposition Kurdish guerrillas are prepared.

An eye-witness said that he had seen the black Iraqi fighter planes bombing the area from a high altitude, resulting in a number of people being killed or wounded, and a number of houses damaged.

It should be pointed out that in its communique No 2,467, the Armed Forces of the Zionist regime ruling over Iraq claimed that on that same day Iran had bombed the Sayyid Sadiq area. This accusation was immediately refuted by the War Publicity Headquarters.

The *Al-Amal Al-Islami* weekly, which published the report, adds: The antipopular regime ruling over Baghdad has committed such acts several times and has blamed them on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Sayyid Sadiq incident is not the first.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

4 Killed in Iraqi 7 Dec Attack

LD081227 Tehran IRNA in English 1211 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 8, IRNA — Iraqi bombardment of the city of Gilan-e Gharb and Gur-e Espid village Sunday afternoon left four martyrs and a number of others wounded. Several houses were also destroyed or damaged during the bombardment.

The Iraqi regime has recently resumed inhuman attacks on residential areas in Iran. At least 100 civilians were martyred in Iraqi bombing of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Saturday.

Economic Centers Hit in Basra

LD081343 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 8, IRNA — Iran's long range artillery fire heavily hit Iraq's economic, military, and

intelligence centers along an 80 km line from Al-'Aziz to Umm Qasr in the southern province of Basra Sunday and Monday in retaliation for recent Iraqi air raids on residential areas in Iran.

According to latest reports, Al-Harithah power installations, Basra aluminium manufacturing factory and petrochemical plant, Az Zubayr fuel reservoirs, strategic bridge of Garmali [name as received], T.V. relay station in Al-Khalid District in southern Basra, and roads and railways connecting Basra to other cities suffered heavy damage in the Iranian shelling.

The supply and logistic centers of the Third, Sixth, and Seventh Iraqi Corps incurred substantial damage with columns of smoke from these centers engulfing Basra.

Basra Province, which is the southern operational axis of Iraqi forces, has huge economic and industrial installations. More than 1,500 square kms of this province is within the range of Iranian artillery fire. The War Information Headquarters (WIH) had called on the Iraqi people to evacuate areas around economic and military centers in Basra before Iran's reprisal attacks started.

In related reports from Bakhtaran, Iraq's industrial and military installations around Khanaqin, Mandali, and Naft Khaneh were hit by Iranian long range artillery fire on Sunday. Columns of smoke seen rising from the enemy installations is an indication of heavy losses inflicted on them.

Over the same period, 26 iraqi soldiers were killed and six enemy bunkers destroyed in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqis Bomb Bakhtaran Village

LD081633 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 8, IRNA — Five civilians were martyred and seven others wounded when intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed Qorbil [name as received] village, a suburb of Kangavar, Bakhtaran Province, at 14:00 hours (10:30 hours GMT) Monday. Several houses were either destroyed or damaged in the raid.

Four other civilians were martyred and a number of others wounded in Sunday's Iraqi air attack on rural areas of the western city of Gilan-e Gharb.

Missile Attacks Said 'In Retaliation'

LD090458 Tehran IRNA In English 0455 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA -- Industrial and economic centers in the Iraqi port city of Basra were hit by three short-range "Eagle" missiles of the Iranian Ground Forces Monday. The attack was carried out in the last hours of the 48-hour deadline set by the Islamic Republic of Iran to shell economic installations in the city. The missile attack was in retaliation for recent Iraqi mischief in attacking residential and industrial areas in Iran.

Also on Sunday, Basra's industrial and military centers were hit by three missiles of the same kind.

'Infiltration' Operations Continue

LD081854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, in continuation of the guerrilla and infiltration operations inside Iraqi territory, the rangers of the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular skirmishes of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the course of a successful operation, inflicted some losses on the Iraqi Zionist forces deep inside that country. In the course of these operations, which were carried out with the cooperation of the Barzanai Peshmerga, the concentration point of two battalions of the Iraqi Zionist forces were attacked south of Sayyid Sadiq, killing or wounding 60 Iraqi troops.

Communique No 2,678

LD071622 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi economic and military centers in the cities of Diyanah, Al-'Amadiyah, and Jalula as well as power installations of Dukan Dam and Al-Kut military base at 04:08, 04:11, 04:19, 07:40, and 08:10 hours GMT Sunday, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2,678 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the fighters after inflicting substantial losses on enemy economic and military centers returned safely to bases.

Several civilians were martyred and many others wounded when intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, and Gilan-e Gharb, Ilam Province, Saturday. The Iraqi warplanes also bombarded some Iranian economic and industrial centers on Saturday inflicting damage on them.

The military communique furthermore said that Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraq's Al-Shu'aybah base on Saturday inflicting considerable losses on it.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least four bunkers and 11 vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts on Saturday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

According to the communique, exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Kushuk operational theater, southern fronts, as a result of which Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damage. A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Kani-Sheykh operational theater Saturday was shelled and forced to flee, the communique said.

Communique No 2,679

LD081538 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 8, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim

combatants throughout the fronts on Sunday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces here Monday.

Communique Number 2,679 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 12 bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throught the fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar, Mehran, and Kushk operational regions.

Several Iraqi gun emplacements and some enemy heavy vehicles were destroyed in the northwestern and western fronts on Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

The military communique furthermore said that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi armoured units in Marivan operational theater, northwestern fronts, Sunday silenced their fire and destroyed some tanks.

Convoys of Iranian patrols after gathering intelligence on key Iraqi positions throughout the fronts and dealing considerable blows on enemy troops returned shafely to bases, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, some pieces of Iraqi engineering machinery were destroyed and enemy engineering operations halted in 'Eyn-Khvosh operational region by Iranian artillery fire Sunday.

Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled an Iraqi vehicle column in Nahr 'Anbar Sunday inflicting loases on it and preventing its movement, the communique said, adding that reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters were also checked in eastern Basra.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 DECEMBER 1986

Israel

"Authoritative sources" cited by *Ma'Ariv* 10 December stated that the issue of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in supplying arms to Iran was raised in talks between President Reagan and Shim'on Peres when the latter visited Washington during his tenure as prime minister. The sources voiced "surprise" at the contention that Reagan knew nothing about the issue, stressing that "Jerusalem did not even for one moment doubt that all the levels of the administration in Washington were aware of what was happening. However, Peres subsequently denied reports that he held a "secret meeting" with Reagan on arms shipments to Iran, stressing that all his meetings with the president were "absolutely open," IDF radio reported.

According to *Hatzofe*, Israeli officials have decided not to furnish any details about the arms shipments to Iran which might "embarrass or incriminate" the Reagan administration.

Iran

USSR Relations — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticized Soviet support for Iraq during talks with visiting Soviet official Konstantin Katushev, stating that the Soviet Union is "unfortunately" strengthening "the aggressor country" for reasons which are "unacceptable" to Iran, Tehran radio reported. The Soviet authorities are acting "in a different manner" from the Americans, who are prepared to "solve" Iran's "arms problems" if the latter shows "flexibility," he asserted. Iran "decisively rejected" the American advances, he said, but the Soviet media misrepresented the U.S.-Iran affair. While the USSR depicted the affair as an Iranian attempt to prolong the Iran-Iraq war at U.S. behest, it should have referred to Iran's "move" as a "great victory scored by a Third World country." The Majlis speaker also told Katushev that the Soviet Union is "unfortunately complicating the issue" in Afghanistan. Nevertheless, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for the Soviet Union's declared intention to expand bilateral relations, and he stressed Iran's readiness to expand relations if the Soviet Union is "serious" in this regard.

Katushev, the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, had earlier begun economic cooperation talks at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in Tehran, according to the radio, which noted that the two sides are expected to sign a new economic cooperation protocol 11 December. The Iranian finance minister viewed the talks as a "positive step," the radio noted, and he indicated Iran's desire to improve transport arrangements between the two countries and step up industrial and scientific cooperation. Katushev also met with the Iranian minister of mines and metals, the radio said, noting that the latter stressed the need to overcome problems at the Esfahan steel works and that Katushev gave a "favorable promise" in this regard.

Mehdi Hashemi Affair — All but one of the charges against Mehdi Hashemi and "other affiliated individuals" have been substantiated and it has become clear that these accusations are only half of the offenses committed by them, the Intelligence Ministry announced in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio. The statement listed the names of nine members of Hashemi's group who are still at large. The radio also reported on a television interview in which Hashemi admitted to "gross deviations" and "standing up against the imam." On his association with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Hashemi said that his group had used Montazeri's office as a base and that it had abused the confidence placed in it by "the illustrious canonist," adding that this caused the group's "subjective and groundless analyses" to be attributed to Montazeri's office.

Montazeri subsequently announced that Hashemi had "no role whatsoever" in his office or affiliated schools, adding that Hashemi's remarks on this subject are "categorically denied," according to the radio. Montazeri also met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Qom to discuss "various issues of the country," IRNA disclosed.

Oil for Syria — The Majlis approved a "top priority" bill providing for the free delivery of 1 million metric tons of oil to Syria, Tehran radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian shelling of Basra killed 3 civilians and wounded 10 others, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn toured the city 9 December, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that the Iranian plan to end the camps war still stands, adding that the Palestinians will withdraw from Maghdushah when a convoy carrying provisions arrives in Al-Rashidiyah camp. The radio said the relief convoy was on its way to Al-Rashidiyah 10 December, adding that PNSF and Hizballah officials were expected to arrive in Maghdushah to begin the withdrawal. Fighting had continued in Maghdushah and Beirut the previous day, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, which reported that 20 people were killed and 65 wounded.

Arab foreign ministers and their representatives announced that they will reconvene their emergency session in Tunis 15 December in order to follow up the situation at the Palestinian camps and take "practical and effective" measures, KUNA reported. Their statement called for an immediate end to the fighting and to the siege of the camps. PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas expressed dissatisfaction with the outcome of the meeting, KUNA said, and he stressed that the next session

must take "practical measures" to end the fighting and guarantee Palestinian rights in Lebanon.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak left for Paris at the start of a European tour 10 December, MENA reported. In another development, the interior minister denied a press report that the security service has arrested six people on charges of leaking economic and military information to Israel and the United States, MENA noted.

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Najibullah To Visit USSR This Month

LD091311 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 1130 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, 9 Dec BAKHTAR — Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee will pay an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union during December of the current year at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the USSR.

Former President Reported Under House Arrest

OW100946 Beijing XINHUA in English 0747 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, December 10 (XINHUA) — Former Afghan PresidentBabrak Karmal has been put under house arrest in Kabul, local newspapers reported today.

The papers said that Karmal was not permitted to meet anyone at his residence which is heavily guarded by security men.

He was subjected to torture due to his persistent refusal to accept offer for his appointment as Afghan ambassador to any country in Eastern Europe, according to the reports.

Karmal resigned from all party and government offices last month.

Polish Party Delegation Arrives 8 Dec

LD081746 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak, member of the Politburo of the Polish United Worker's Party [PZPR] Central Committee and chairman of the PZPR Central Control and Auditing Commission, heading a high-ranking delegation from Poland, arrived in Kabul this morning at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee, for a friendly visit of the DRA.

Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Abdorrashid Arain, head of Control and Auditing Section of the party Central Committee; and Comrade Stanislaw Bugala, the ambassador of People's Republic of Poland in Afghanistan welcomed Comrade Mokrzyszczak and his accompanied delegation at Kabul International Airport.

According to another report the delegation this afternoon visited the memorial to the martyrs of the path of revolution, paid their respects, and laid a wreath.

Meets With PDPA Officials

LD100628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 9, BAKHTAR — Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA CC, 'Abdorrashid Aryan, the head of the Control and Supervision Section of the PDPA CC as well as Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Writers' Union of the DRA, had separate meetings with a high-ranking party delegation of the Polish People's Republic, headed by Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak, Politburo member and head of Control and Investigation Section of the Polish United Workers' Party, PUWP.

Both sides discussed and exchanged views on matters of mutual interests in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity.

The Polish party delegation is here for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

'Heavy Loss of Life' Reported for Rebels

LD091739 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The savage and criminal counterevolutionaries, who had been trying to establish their satanical dens for some time in the Turan region, Helmand Province and had embarked on plundering the properties and goods of the innocent people of Helmand Province, were recently brought to their knees after suffering heavy loss of life.

A BIA military correspondent reported that seven villages in the Turan region were purged of the enemy and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, which had been stored in the arm caches by the counterrevolutionaries to cause disruption in the peaceful life of our compatriots, were seized by the security forces of the country.

The report adds that recently as a result of the courageous assaults mounted by the troops, NCO's, and officers of the Armed Forces against the satanical dens of the counterrevolutionary bands during the past few days in various parts of the country — including Qandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, and Kapisa Provinces — shattering blows have been dealt at the enemy, a large number of traitors to the homeland, people, and revolution along with a number of their ringleaders have been crushed and our toiling people have been freed from the persecution of these criminals and murderers.

'Guerrillas' Shoot Down Jets, Helicopters

BK091436 Hong Hong AFP in English 1419 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 9 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas operating with "new weapons" shot down at least six Soviet-made jets and helicopters last week, killing more than 40 troops, Western diplomats here reported Tuesday.

The anti-Marxist rebels also raided an ammunition depot in the Pol-e-Charkhi area and seized a large arsenal stored in Kabul, they said.

In the south east Qandahar Province last week, guerrillas killed 82 Soviet-Afghan soldiers and ambushed two trucks loaded with Afghan secret service men, killing 40 KHAD agents, the diplomats said.

They added that the mujahidin also stepped up activity in Kabul, moving in a large number of rebels with new fast-shooting Oerlikon cannons, effective against planes. The rebels are also reported to have shoulder-carried Stinger missiles.

The diplomats said that on November 30 a mujahidin missile downed a Soviet military transport aircraft near Kabul. The plane hit near Mahi Par, limped to an area just east of Kabul airport and crash-landed. Five people parachuted to safety but 40 troops, mostly Soviet, died in the crash, the diplomats said.

Two SU-25 planes were also downed east of Kabul last week but details were not available.

The diplomats said the mujahidin also shot down three more helicopters, at Arghandeh and Pol-e-Charkhi near Kabul and over the northern Jabal os Saraj hills earlier this week.

They had no casualty figures for these incidents.

Congress-S Leader Defies Congress-I Merger

BK091632 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The Congress-S leader, Mdr Unikrishnan, said the decision to join the Congress-I has been taken by a group of people and not by the party. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, he said his party continues to maintain its identity as a national party.

First Mig-29's To Arrive From USSR in Dec

BK091536 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Nov 86 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 22 (UNI) The first batch of MiG-29 fighter aircraft is to arrive from the Soviet Union early next month.

A team of eight Indian Air Force pilots and six maintenance engineers are undergoing conversion training at Frunze base with the Soviet Air Force MiG-29 squadrons.

The aircraft were originally scheduled to start arriving in April-May next year but the USSR has expedited the deliveries as production of these aircraft has picked up there.

India is expected to acquire two squadrons of MiG-29's in semiknocked down condition and then assemble them at Nashik's plant of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).

India thus becomes the first country outside the USSR to get the MiG-29.

A contract for purchase of MiG-29 aircraft was signed by an Indian defence delegation in Moscow in the middle of this year and the delivery schedules and the question of its licensed manufacture at HAL were firmed up during the recent visit of Minister of State for Defence Arun Singh.

The Indian MiG-29's would be equipped with medium range air-to-air missiles (NATO codenamed AA-10) [and] have the latest pulse doppler radar, giving it look-down capability.

This radar will give the MiG-29 formidable air defence capability enabling it to pick up low flying targets with great precision and less chances of its being jammed.

Defence experts said the MiG-29 would have tremendous advantage over the F-16's of Pakistan.

Further Reportage on Violence in Karnataka

Minister Urges Living in Peace

BK091303 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has appealed to the people of Karnataka to live in peace and not to be misled by antisocial elements. He was making a statement [in Rajya Sabha] on the situation in the state arising out of protest against publication of a story in a section of the press. The minister said the center is in constant touch with the state government and asked for complete details in the matter. The state government has already initiated some administrative action and a judicial enquiry has been ordered. It is learnt that the editor and the publisher of the newspaper have been arrested. Measures for relief are also reported to be in hand. The chief minister has been requested to ensure that such provocative publications do not reoccur and he has assured the center that steps will be taken in this regard.

The home minister said that he has spoken to the chief minister and the governor. Both of them have assured him that all steps are being taken to restore law and order and bring about normalcy. The center is also being in touch with the leaders of the Muslim community in Bangalore and have assured them full protection and action against those who are out to vitiate the atmosphere of communal harmony. The home minister also appealed to the Muslim leaders to accept the unconditional apology of the editor. Mr Buta Singh said that according to information 15 persons were killed in Bangalore and Mysore as a result of police firing.

A similar statement was read out by the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, in the Lok Sabha.

Violence Spreads; Deaths Rise to 16

BK091630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Violence in Karnataka has spread to new areas with one more person dying in police firing. In Tumkur today, police fired at a mob indulging in violence. With this, death toll in police firing and other violent incidents in the state has risen to 16; 11 people have been killed in Bangalore and 4 in Mysore in the last 2 days. The violence was sparked off by the publication of a short story in a local newspaper last Sunday.

In Mysore, a dusk to dawn curfew has been reimposed in view of the tense situation following sporadic incidents of violence this morning. Prohibitory orders have been enforced on several cities and towns, including Belgaum, Dharwar, Tumkur, and Chikmagalur. Schools, colleges, and businesses remained closed in the trouble-torn areas. Buses were also off the road in Gulbarga where bundh [strike] was observed today.

Bangalore city was relatively calm with no incident of violence reported since late last night. The state chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, haas warned warned that the government will not tolerate any act of violence by any community. He appealed to the people to maintain peace. [passage omitted]

The KPCCI [Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee — I] president and MP, Mr Oscar Farnandis, has said the police action in many parts of Karnataka in the last 2 days was unprovoked. The PCCI, which met in Bangalore today, has appealed to all sections of the community to cooperate in establishing peace and harmony.

'Most Cities' Under Control

BK100340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, the situation in most of the cities and towns which witnessed violence during the last 3 days is under control. No incident has been reported from Mysore, Tumkur, and Bangalore. The director general of police, Mr Nizamuddin, told our Bangalore correspondent that prohibitory orders have, however, been clamped at Hubli, Belgaum, Raichur, and (Bidur) cities as a precautionary measure. In Mysore the dusk to dawn curfew was imposed in sensitive areas for the second time yesterday. The home minister, Mr B. Rachaiah and the rural development minister, Mr Abdul Nazir Sab, went round Mysore city last night to persuade the leaders of all communities to cooperate with the authorities to bring the situation back to normal. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the state Congress-I chief, Mr Oscar Fernandes, and the Lok Sabha member from Bangalore, Mr Jaffar Sharief, have appealed to the people to help restore peace in the disturbed areas.

Meanwhile, the management of the daily newspaper which published the story that led to the violence has announced compensation of 25,000 rupees each to the bereaved families and 12,000 rupees each to the injured.

DMK Members Arrested for Damaging Constitution

BK091637 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The DMK president, Mr Karunanidhi, and 200 others were arrested in Madras today for burning copies of part 17 of the Constitution. This was part of the DMK's anti-Hindi agitation.

'Political Initiative' Needed in Punjab

BK091540 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
4 Dec 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Bankruptcy of Ideas"]

[Text] There is no mistaking the anger and anguish that have been expressed in Parliament, in the press, and among people at large over the events in Punjab in the last few days. It is, of course, easy to understand, and it is a remarkable testimony to the maturity of the average Indian, particularly in areas close to Punjab, that in spite of the provocation posed by the bus killings in Hoshiarpur, there has been no retaliatory violence. Reassuring though this is, there is no longer any doubt that the initiative has gone back to the terrorists, and twist and turn as it might on the hook of the Punjab problem, the Government now exhibits a bankruptcy of ideas. This, in turn, has given rise to a creeping sense of frustration, that in spite of everything, the terrorist problem in Punjab simply refuses to come under control. Such a situation is tailor-made for disaster, and cannot be allowed to continue. Not that it is easy to come up with solutions. Far from it. But it is time the Government changed its tack substantially and began to prepare public opinion to learn to live with a protracted problem. This means doing several things.

First, it means putting an end to statements that give rise to expectations of a quick breakthrough, of peace being around the corner, a settlement at the most within a few months. Such indications have been frequently given by persons in responsible positions, and hopes have been built up centering around this or that initiative. One doesn't need to go very far back to recognise this. The appointment of Mr J.F. Ribeiro as the police chief, for instance, was one such occasion. The more effective sealing of the border and the killing of a larger number of people crossing it illegally, were given out as fresh reasons for hope. The better apprehension of terrorists, the success that Mr Ribeiro has seemingly had — until very recently — was yet another indicator portrayed as evidence that the problem was coming under control.

Now, in Parliament more stringent measures have been promised. Perhaps the authorities, both in New Delhi and Chandigarh, were under pressure to do something, but the first actions — the arrest of Mr Tohra and Mr Badal — that have followed the Hoshiarpur killings smack of panic. No reasons have been given, and if they have to do with the alleged links they are said to have with terrorists, then clearly the arrests should have been made long ago. Coming on the heels of Mr Tohra's election as SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee] president, the arrests are likely to raise new, more difficult problems. All this suggests the second imperative, that the fire-fighting approach of the past year has to be replaced with a genuine plan of action which seeks to achieve certain goals and tries to lay down some ways of doing so. Not since the Punjab Accord more or less crumbled on Republic Day this year has there been anything remotely resembling a well-thought-out strategy on what needs to be done. For a start, the Accord must not be written off. It may not now produce the expected results, but the commitments contained in it such as territorial transfers and the water problem are still valid.

The third adjustment the Government must make is to stop treating the Punjab problem primarily as a law and order problem. Mr Ribeiro and his men need all the support and encouragement to keep the terrorists on the run, to catch them, and to keep innocent people out of harm's way. But, as has been pointed out frequently in these columns, in the absence of a political initiative, Mr Ribeiro can never be the answer to the Punjab problem. And it is precisely this, an effective political initiative, that has been lacking since the collapse of the Accord earlier this year. The Government has depended heavily on the ability of the police to contain terrorism and apprehend terrorists. Congress (I) rank and file have made occasional morale-boosting and peace-making forays, but the Centre has done little more than rely on the Barnala government for political action. Since the Accord is dormant, the Akalis split, and Barnala beleaguered, there has been virtually no political activity to counter the pull of the terrorists and the ideologues.

The fourth imperative in all this is to clearly distinguish between essentially Akali problems and those created by the terrorists. There is no doubt that there are elements in the Akali ranks which have a symbiotic relationship with the terrorists. But the terrorists are a law unto themselves, and even if these links are broken and the culprits brought to book, terrorism will not cease. Obviously, those who give succour to killers must be punished,

and those who provide moral and material support to terrorists cannot be allowed to remain free. But if the Barnala government is to be allowed to do its job, which it must as the legally-constituted authority in Punjab, then there is every need to work towards bringing about Akali unity, roping in all those who keep the terrorists at arm's length and making whatever just compromises may be necessary to bring this about. If the snipping at the man in power stops, if the State Government is strengthened, if the more extreme among the Akali ranks are isolated or exposed, it will be that much easier to exert political pressure in the State. Punjab is a problem which demands that all the concerned parties act together, whatever their political colour.

Paper Views Delhi Declaration, Appeal for Peace

BK091532 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Nov 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Coalition for Peace"]

[Text] The Delhi Declaration on nuclear disarmament and peace signed by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi "on behalf of the more than one billion men, women, and children" of India and the Soviet Union reflects the deepest concern and aspirations of the overwhelming majority of humankind. The joint appeal is unlikely to cause the nuclear powers to roll up their lethal blueprints, let alone dismantle their deadly stockpiles. Similar appeals have been made in recent years, chiefly by the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] and the six-nation five-continent disarmament group. However, what lends added significance to the Delhi Declaration is the fact that one of the signatories is a superpower which, along with the other superpower, the United States, holds the key to a safer, saner world. The Soviet participation in the appeal becomes the more credible in view of Moscow's consistent support to NAM and the Six-nation Group and the fact that it unilaterally imposed a moratorium on nuclear weapon testing last year and continues to abstain even as the United States has not only rejected the various international initiatives in this regard but continues to conduct such tests.

The ten principles set out in the Delhi Declaration enlarge the principles underlying panchsheel [Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence] and other widely endorsed canons of peaceful coexistence. Of the most immediate significance is the action plan suggested in the declaration. It calls for agreements on complete destruction of nuclear arsenals before the end of the century, banning of all weapons from outer space which must be treated as the common heritage of mankind, banning of all nuclear weapons tests and of new instruments of mass destruction as well as of chemical weapons and destruction of their stockpiles and, finally, reducing the levels of conventional arms and armed forces. Given the present realities, the superpower rivalries, the hostile perceptions with regard to other nations, the powerful military-industrial interests involved in the arms race — given all this, the blueprint for peace in the action plan must seem easier proposed than implemented. On the other hand, given the increasingly dangerous situation, particularly the escalation inherent in Mr Reagan's Star Wars project, the world has no alternative but to get together and unitedly opt for disarmament and peace. The starting point could be an international convention on banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons proposed in the Delhi Declaration. To recall the words of the late Olaf Palme, the time has come for the peoples of the world to assert that those who oppose disarmament and peace have no right to decide the fate of the present and future generations. As the declaration rightly points out, "the time for decisive and urgent action is now."

PATRIOT on Pakistan-U.S. 'Military Alliance'

BK091718 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "More on an Unholy Axis"]

[Text] We have already noted the extraordinary expression of an extended U.S. commitment of military relations with Pakistan that came on the eve of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's current visit to India. The statement by an American official, marking a brazen departure from the fraudulent Washington formulation about external aid for Islamabad's muscle-binding and flexing being not anti-India, has been followed by further revelations that compel attention no less. These are notable not only as ample confirmation of the thrust of the Pak-American partnership but also as added indication of the price the Reaganite power extracts for its solidarity with the Ziaul Haq military dictatorship.

The latest bunch of disclosures from prominent analyst Selig Harrison lay bare again both these aspects of what is now a full-fledged military alliance, short as it may fall of a formal status. The speciousness of the plea about U.S. military largesse for Pakistan not being directed against India has been clear even from the nature of weaponry that has formed part of the package and that could be of no use in the Afghan terrain. Now comes Mr Harrison's finding that the AWACS offer to Islamabad is the result of the latter's insistence on getting an airborne early warning system capable of covering India. The even more outrageous dimension of the axis to be brought into light, however, concerns the Pakistani quid pro quo. By providing ground-based electronic intelligence facilities to the warmongers of Washington, the Zia regime has not only placed its territory at the service of the anti-Soviet world camp but sought to push ahead belligerent preparations against India. The deal carries considerably forward a long-established collaboration in espionage and escalation of threats to the peace-loving nations of a whole region.

What all this together amounts to is a new stage in an old alliance, directed in general against peace and stability in the region and specifically against the country that has stood up most consistently and effectively for these imperatives. Together, it raises questions again about the claim to the nonaligned status of a puppet state that has violated the most fundamental tenets of the movement it has been allowed to infiltrate by going to the extent of providing military bases on its territory to the most rabid of the world's warlords. And, the heightened anti-India axis brings into focus, once again as well, the task ahead of countering a growing peril that faces not this country alone.

Opposition Demands Resignation of Ziaul Haq

BK081656 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition Movement for Restoration Democracy [MRD] says that wrong foreign policy has turned the country into a client state of the United States. At the conclusion of the 2-day deliberations in Lahore last night, the Central Action Committee of the MRD appealed to all political parties to make joint efforts to save the country from becoming a battlefield for the superpowers. It also demanded the resignation of General Ziaul Haq.

The meeting was attended by Miss Benazir Bhutto and other top opposition leaders.

Karachi Reports on Foreign Secretary in Moscow

BK090225 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar, now on a visit to the Soviet Union, had talks with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov in Moscow yesterday. A spokesman of the Pakistani Embassy said they exchanged views on the latest efforts for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

Pakistan's foreign secretary is expected to meet the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today.

Junejo Briefs Parliament on Border Situation

BK091639 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] A special meeting of the federal cabinet and members of the National Assembly belonging to various groups representing all shades of opinion was held in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who presided, briefed the members with the current situation on the Pakistan borders arising out of the exercises by the Indian forces. The prime minister assured that the government is taking all measures regarding the defense of the country. He said that the government is fully capable to discharge its duties in defending the country's frontiers. Similarly, the Armed Forces are fully aware of every situation and prepared to defend every inch of its land.

'Close Watch' Said Being Kept Over Borders

BK091723 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Excerpts] A special meeting of the federal cabinet and members of the National Assembly belonging to all groups was held in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who presided, briefed the members with the current situation on the Pakistan border. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Chaudhry Shujat Hussain told editors in Islamabad that although the government is concerned over a large-scale military exercise by India very close to Pakistan's borders, it is keeping a close watch at the country's borders and is ready to face any situation. The federal minister said Mr Rajiv Gandhi has assured Prime Minister Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo that these are routine military exercises conducted by India. The information and broadcasting minister said that the government will keep the people apprised of all developments and will take them into confidence on every matter. He reaffirmed the government's determination that it will remain committed to the policy of strengthening the democratic process in the country with the cooperation of the democratic-minded people.

Economic Growth Rate Termed 'Impressive'

BK061630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1600 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] The annual report of the state bank for the fiscal year says Pakistan's performance over the last 5 years in respect of economic growth and price stability compares favorably with average of nonoil producing countries. The rate of GDP [gross domestic product] growth has been 7.5 percent, and is better than the rate of 6.1 percent for developing countries in Asia. Along with this impressive growth, the inflation rate has also been reduced. Total investment rose by 16.7 percent in 1985-86 as against 13.5 percent in the previous financial year. The report also says the country's exports rose to $2,939 million during the last financial year from $2,457 million in the preceding year.

'Torture' Shows Afghans Far From Settlement

BK050335 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
20 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Torture in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The international human rights organisation Amnesty International, has in a 51-page report given details of torture practised in Afghanistan. The report says that the sites of the torture in Kabul are two state information centres operated under the overall supervision and control of KHAD, the Afghan secret service. Executions of captives have been reported. Even women have not been left unspared. To rub in the horrors, some of them have been locked in dark cells with the corpses of other victims.

Amnesty has said that in some instances Soviet personnel has been involved in the torture. Despite limited access, Amnesty was able to piece together a report depicting a regular pattern of torture including those of government officials, teachers, students, shopkeepers, etc.

There can be little hope for Afghanistan if the ruling party, in concert with its Soviet backers, resorts to inhuman methods to break the will of the resistance to the current regime. It serves notice that the problem of Afghanistan is still far from settlement.

Economic Cooperation Talks With USSR Open

Iravani Addresses Session 9 Dec

LD091238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Following the arrival of a high-ranking economic delegation from the Soviet Union, the 10th session of the Permanent Committee for Economic Cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union, cochaired by Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Iravani and Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, opened at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, in Tehran, this morning.

The talks are being attended by the ambassadors of the two countries; under secretaries and officials of the Iranian Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs, Oil, Energy, Commerce, Roads and Transport, Foreign Affairs, and the Central Bank of Iran; under secretaries of the USSR Ministries of Gas Industry and Power and Electrification; officials responsible for economic cooperation with Middle Eastern and Western European countries; and officials of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran. The talks will continue until Thursday, when the signing of a new protocol on economic cooperation between the two countries is expected. During this period, the Soviet economic delegation will also meet and hold talks with a number of Iranian ministers and high-ranking officials.

During the first round of the talks, the heads of the delegations of the two countries described the background of economic and commercial ties between the two countries and the grounds for economic and technical cooperation between the two sides. They declared their views on mutual relations and cooperation.

In a speech during the session Finance Minister Iravani said: We consider the arrival of the Soviet economic delegation in Tehran and the holding of a new economic session a positive step in the relations between the two countries. We believe that it opens the way for future sessions.

Describing the principles of Iran's foreign economic policy, he said: Iran and the Soviet Union are neighboring countries with long common borders and many other common denominators, which encourage friendly relations. He added: Since the start of the sessions of the Permanent Committee for Economic Cooperation between the two countries, a number of agreements have been signed between the two countries, resulting in the creation of industrial installations, a steel mill, machinery manufacturing, power stations, and various silos.

The finance minister referred to the role of the Soviet Union as one of the major buyers of Iran's traditional goods, including dried fruit — which at one time held the highest position in this respect — and the commercial trade between the two countries, which after the Islamic Revolution in 1981 reached a peak of roughly 1 billion but then declined. He also said: The talks between the two countries' experts during the past 6 months have solved problems relating to the steel mill, power stations, technical cooperation, and the joint use of the two countries' common waters.

Regarding the future of the economic relations between the two countries, he proposed that the issue of transport, especially regarding the formation of a joint shipping company in the Caspian Sea, the transporting of passengers between Bandar-e Anzali and Baku, truck traffic between Iran and the USSR, and the commencing of flights by the Soviet airline to Tehran should be symbols of the economic relations between the two countries.

The finance minister also declared our country's willingness to start talks on establishing scientific and industrial cooperation, especially regarding the prevention of pollution and the lowering of the Caspian Sea. He expressed the hope that the export of gas to the Soviet Union and the transport of gas to European countries via the Soviet Union would result in the expansion of cooperation and technical relations between the two countries, and that, considering the necessity and willingness to expand technical and economic cooperation between the two countries, problems resulting from the fact that the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation between the two countries was not held during the past 6 years would be solved.

Finally, he expressed the hope that the 11th session of the committee, which will be held in the future, would pave the way and determine the form of future relations between the two countries.

According to our correspondent's report, at the start of the 10th session of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation between Iran and the USSR, Mr Katushev, the head of the Soviet delegation and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, expressed satisfaction over the resumption of the sessions of the Iran-USSR economic committee. He said: The two countries consider the fact that the committee sessions were not held during the past 6 years as abnormal and contrary to the interests of the two sides. It is a cause for gladness that Iran gives priority to the expansion of relations with the Soviet Union.

He also stressed the importance of the relations between the two countries based on good-neighborly relations, equality, and mutual respect.

Majlis Speaker Meets Katushev

LD091840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Katushev, together with the delegation accompanying him, met and had talks with Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this afternoon. During the meeting Mr Katushev, emphasizing good-neighborly bilateral relations and calling for the principles of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's affairs, said that the Soviet leaders attached special significance to having relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We are for expanding relations and wish to extend these in all areas. He expressed the hope that thanks to efforts by the two sides' officials, bilateral relations would progress step by step and that the existing obstacles would be removed one after another from the path.

During the meeting the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, while expressing thanks for the desire shown by Soviet responsible officials to strengthen and expand relations and remove any obstacles, expressed the hope that they would seriously attend to strengthening and activating the two countries' relations and would act seriously in accordance with the contents of the talks between the delegations.

Referring to the recent events in the United States and the West in connection with establishing relations with the Islamic Republic, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Recently you have heard only too well the reaction of the Americans and you are aware how anxious the Americans and British are to establish relations and normalize the situation between us. You have seen for yourselves how we have responded to them! The problem of Mr McFarlane is an unprecedented one in their history and in U.S. foreign relations. Though bearing messages and gifts from Mr Reagan he was not able to find a single official here who would talk to him and Mr McFarlane said: "Had I gone to Russia for trade, Mr Gorbachev would have spoken to me three times!" U.S. officials, whether Republicans or Democrats, despite their differences, accept the philosophy of having ties with Iran and are prepared, should we show any flexibility, to solve even our arms problems. Nevertheless, we decisively rejected that, and without having any official talks or receiving the monies we have in the United States, we agreed to contacts only as far as interceding for the hostages in Lebanon goes. The British are constantly dispatching emissaries to us in an effort to raise the level of relations with us.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly then said: Unfortunately the responsible authorities in your country for reasons unacceptable to us are acting in a different manner. Why do you embark on strengthening Iraq despite the fact that you know it is the aggressor country, so that it can try to weaken a strongly anti-imperialist country?! When you see that Iraq is acting contrary to all international standards, how can you assist it so that it can harm Iran's popular and anti-imperialist revolution?!

Unfortunately, in connection with our recent reaction to the United States, you in your mass media conveyed this problem in a manner as if Iran, as it were, wished to prolong the war at U.S. behest, when it was right and proper that you in your mass media should have referred to this move by us as a great victory scored by a Third World country!

In connection with the Afghanistan problem Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: In connection with Afghanistan, which is your problem, we have been willing to cooperate so that Afghanistan could remain as an independent country and so that Westerners would not be there! We have put forward this issue in a friendly manner as we do not wish to turn it into a political move, but you with your political presence there are unfortunately complicating the issue. We are desirous of seeing Afghanistan a free and independent and anti-imperialist country with a government emerging there in accordance with the wishes of the majority of Muslims in that country!

In conclusion the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: If you really have a message for expanding relations kindly do be serious and rest assured that the Islamic Republic in that case would be fully prepared for expanding relations!

Mining Minister Talks With Katushev

LD091724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] This afternoon the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, accompanied by that country's ambassador, met and conferred with Minister of Mines and Metals Ayatollahi. In the course of this meeting, the mines and metals minister approved the logical and balanced continuation of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries and stressed the significance and the need for removing problems encountered in the first phase of expansion of the Esfahan steel mill for a speedy realization of the planned production capacity.

The head of the USSR economic delegation gave a favorable promise on solving and removing the problems and it was agreed to review and study details of the affairs more carefully during his stay in Iran and in separate meetings of the USSR delegation with the responsible officials of the Iranian national steel company and other departments of this ministry.

Khamene'i, Katushev Meet 10 Dec

LD101148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] This morning President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Katushev who has come to Iran at the head of a delegation to attend the 10th session of the joint Iran-USSR commission. During this meeting, which was also attended by Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Iravani, and the two countries' ambassadors, Mr Katushev, referring to the useful and constructive talks that he has had so far on political and economic matters, welcomed the new economic agreements and told the president of the desire of his country's leaders to further expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and to increase cooperation in every field. He said: The USSR leadership attaches high importance to improvement of the two countries' relations.

Mr Katushev presented a detailed report to President Khamene'i on recent talks between Mr Gorbachev and India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and also on the Reykjavik summit and the outcome of the Iceland talks. He criticized the U.S. ambition of seeking military superiority and referred to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in achieving solidarity with the progressive powers in the region as highly significant.

Afterward, President Khamene'i, emphasizing the need to continue such visits to further expand relations and improve the two countries' ties, said: The existing common points between Iran and the USSR make it more possible in practice to expand and develop these relations. Therefore, the two sides' efforts in this connection should be increased as much as possible.

Emphasizing that the people of Afghanistan should determine their own fate, Mr Khamene'i said: The problem of Afghanistan will not be solved unless an independent regime is set up in Afghanistan relying on its people.

Referring to the strong and rational views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the imposed war, the president said: Our views on the war issue are firm and rational and we believe that anyone who listens to our views would appreciate the righteous stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this imposed war; and it is by relying on these views that we have announced that we shall end this war with victory, God willing.

Economic Minister Meets Katushev

LD101507 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA — Expansion of Tehran-Moscow cooperation particularly in the field of joint construction of a dam over the Aras River was discussed in a meeting between visiting Soviet Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev and Energy Minister Mohammad Taki Banki here Wednesday.

During the meeting Banki welcomed the Soviet policy in promoting economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and called on the Soviet Union to start and complete its commitments quickly according to the already signed agreements.

Experts of the two countries also decided to study exploitation of the border rivers as well as the ebb tide of the water of the Caspian Sea.

Mr Katushev heading a delegation arrived here Monday [8 December].

Khamene'i on Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

LD071627 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Iran seeks to be independent because a country which needs imported wheat is not, said President Khamene'i here Sunday. Self-sufficiency is not a slogan but a realizable goal representing the values of the Islamic Republic, he added.

President Khamene'i made the remarks at a meeting with model farmers from throughout the country where he noted that the enemy's economic hegemony should be fought with the same vitality as its other forms of imperialism. He said that each and every Iranian should help the country in its quest to realize self-sufficiency.

Out of an estimated 50 million hectares of farmland in the country, only 15 to 20 percent is being cultivated, said the president. The message of the Islamic Revolution to other countries is self-sufficiency and independence. Iran calls on them not to allow themselves to be economically strangled by outside exploitative powers, he added. Elsewhere the president said the country's industries should work closely with the agriculture sector. It will be easier for Iran to export the revolution if other nations see that she has boosted her agricultural production and is self-sufficient in the area, Khamene'i noted.

On the Islamic Republic's political and military victories, the president said that the war was imposed on Iran at the time Iranian forces lacked knowledge of the weapons in its arsenal. The war was imposed on the country when the Islamic Republic was weak, but now the world knows that not only does Iran have the upper hand at the war fronts but also it is waiting for Iran to inflict the ultimate defeat on Iraq, said the president.

On Iran's victories in the political area, Khamene'i said that the great Satan (U.S.) along with its allies severed ties with Iran at the beginning of the revolution, but that today the White House is entreating Iran to resume relations with her. Its allies too, are racing to renew ties with the Islamic Republic, said the president.

Iran owes these victories to the devotion of the nation, said the president, noting that a nation which has achieved such outstanding successes, can also become self-sufficient in agriculture and other areas, once the will to do so is acted upon.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Agriculture

LD081908 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 8, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here Monday that the agricultural potential of the country is capable of meeting the foodstuff requirements for a population several-times bigger than that of Iran.

Speaking to model farmers from throughout the country Hoj. Rafsanjani said that the country's rivers, can if properly exploited be used for irrigation, thus leading to the growth of this vital sector. Many water outlets of the country which merge with those of neighbouring territories like Iraq and the Soviet Union or the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf can also be exploited, said the speaker. A wise application of technology can route river water to the plains thereby boosting agriculture production and cattle breeding in these areas, the speaker said.

Hoj. Rafsanjani said in the past bullies, royal court officials, feudals, and the princes confiscated the choicest land for themselves while they lived in the capital or European countries. The post-revolution agricultural situation is markedly better than that of the past, the speaker said, adding that although some problems still exist, they are being solved. The speaker said that the country's agriculture potential as well as a good leadership and people properly directed, can all contribute to making the quality of life better for each and every individual in the Islamic Republic and thereby provide a model for other nations, which he said the enemies are frightened of.

Majlis Speaker, Montazeri View 'Issues'

LD101255 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 10 Dec 86

["Ayatollah Montazeri, Majlis Speaker Meet" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with the spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, in the holy city of Qom, Tuesday night. During the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues of the country.

Charges Against Mehdi Hashemi 'Substantiated'

LD091724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Statement issued by Intelligence Ministry dated 9 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O you the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, we are grateful to God for following the instructions of the imam of the nation to the Intelligence Ministry, ordering it to pursue the accusations against Mehdi Hashemi and other affiliated individuals. We can now announce that all the charges, except one, have been substantiated and in the course of the investigation it became clear that the previous accusations were only half of the offenses committed by them. The names of the nine fugitives accused are also announced as follows:

1. Amit Shahnavazi, alias Amiri;
2. Hoseyn Moradi;
3. Mohammad Hoseyn Ja'farzadeh;
4. Asadollah Shafi'zadeh;
5. Mostafa Mahdizadeh;
6. Fazlollah Rismankar;
7. Morteza Nilforushan;
8. Mas'ud 'Arabzadeh, alias Mo'tamedi; and
9. Mohammad Qasemi.

The martyr-nurturing nation is hereby asked to inform the security forces if they know anything of the whereabouts of the above-mentioned individuals.

Mehdi Hashemi Interviewed

LD092240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] On Tuesday night, Mr Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, during a 45 minute-long television interview carried by the 1st network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, provided explanations about the charges against him, the crimes attributed to him, and the course of his intellectual development. During the interview, he termed his motive for speaking an effort to clarify his deviationist actions as well as those of his sympathizers and also to tear the veil from a course of mounting errors and mistakes. He added [read by announcer]:

From the mid 1340's [1960's] I began my political activities and for various reasons the streaks of eclecticism permeated my being, so much so that I cast off the garb of the clergy and the essence of spirituality abated within me. This culminated in my falling prey to a series of errors and mistakes through which I was dragged into deviation.

In connection with his ties with SAVAK, he said: (?My mistake was) my flexibility in relation to SAVAK which gradually culminated in establishing contacts. This course finally reached such a level whereby I officially wrote to SAVAK and continued my collaboration.

In connection with the charges of murder attributed to him, Mehdi Hashemi said: Of the murders, one was connected with reprehensible deeds and prostitution pertaining to a woman and a man and the other was the murder of Mr Shamsabadi [former ayatollah from Esfahan]. I deemed that murder permissible because of my incorrect interpretations of Islam whereupon Ja'farzadeh, Shafi'zadeh and Ebrahimpur collaborated with me.

Continuing his interview, Mehdi Hashemi referred to his activities after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and said: After the victory of the revolution, due to the same extremist actions [as heard] and in view of the rivalries between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the committee in charge of investigating security matters, I embarked on a course of seriously supporting the IRGC. In the end, these rivalries reached their zenith and resulted in clashes within these organs and certain casualties.

Admitting the taking away of large quantities of ammunition, explosives, and documents from the IRGC and the distribution of statements under the pretext of criticism, and culminating in deviation within society, he then referred to penetrating the religious seminaries, using the office of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as a base. He then said: In view of the fact that the person responsible for the office was my own brother, that the illustrious canonist Grand Ayatollah Montazeri believed in me, and that we had friends within the office, and also in view of the fact that we also supervised face to face meetings with Montazeri, we abused the confidence placed in us by the illustrious canonist and such instances resulted in our subjective and groundless analyses to be attributed to the office of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In conclusion, Mehdi Hashemi added: The sum total of all the deviationist factors that had grown within me prior to the revolution reached such a level that they violated the sanctity of the imamate and culminated in dragging small problems into deviations, deviations into gross deviations, and finally into standing up against the imam of the Islamic nation.

Montazeri's Bureau Rejects Remarks

LD101214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Following Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi's remarks, broadcast by the radio and television of the Islamic Republic, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri-Najafabadi's bureau issued a statement, announcing: Grand Ayatollah Montazeri-Najafabadi has graciously said: Mr Seyyed Hashemi had no role whatsoever in my bureau, in the schools affiliated with me, or in their timetable and management; and his remarks about these two issues are categorically denied.

Majlis Approves Free Delivery of Oil to Syria

LD092238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In today's open session of the Majlis the top priority [do-fowriyat] bill on the free delivery of 1 million metric tons of oil to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was presented to the Majlis. The top priority bill was approved by the Majlis. [passage omitted]

Majlis Reschedules 'Entirety' of DPRK Debt

LD071717 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — An act of parliament here Sunday has rescheduled the entirety of 170 million dollars owed to Iran by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). According to the act DPRK's debt to Iran for oil purchases is to be paid back in equal quarterly installments over a period of five years and retroactive from the first day of January 1985.

For Iran's purchases from the DPRK during the five years of the repayment plan, the Islamic Government will pay 30 per cent of prices of Korean merchandise in cash and deduct the remaining 70 per cent from DPRK's debt to Iran. Minutes of the arrangements for the plan are to be formulated jointly by Iran's Central Bank and DPRK's foreign trade bank later on.

Meanwhile in the open session of the parliament Sunday Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his deep sympathy towards the families of the more than 100 civilians martyred and or injured in Iraq's bombardment of the city of Ahvaz Saturday and expressed hope that at some future time Iran's Muslim combatants would avenge the Iraqi attack.

Envoy in London on Briton's Arrest in Tehran

LD091924 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 9, IRNA — Iranian Charge d'Affaires to London Mahdi Akhunzadeh has told officials of the British Foreign Ministry that their waging a propaganda brawl about the arrest of British journalist Roger Cooper in Tehran would probably obstruct resolution of the issue. Akhunzadeh, who had been summoned to the British Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying that the case does not come under the jurisdiction of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and that judicial officials are handling the matter. "I can only convey Britain's concern over the issue to Tehran", he was qouted as saying.

In an interview with IRNA here Tuesday, press advisor of the Islamic Republic Embassy quoted Akhunzadeh as telling British officials that "no one is arrested in Iran without due reason and that the Cooper case is not an exception."

On Britain's implicit threat that Cooper's continued detention would hurt Tehran-London relations, the advisor quoted Akhunzadeh as saying that he did not think so.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Sites Hit 8 Dec Still Burning

LD091740 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 9, IRNA — Iraqi economic and military centers around the cities of Khanaqin, Mandali, Jalula, and Zurbatiyah are engulfed in flames and smoke as a result of the 48-hour Iranian reprisal shelling which ended Monday night. Iranian artillery fire on the Iraqi military and economic targets in these cities was in retaliation for enemy air raids on residential areas in Iran.

Meanwhile, more than 12 Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and five enemy engineering vehicles destroyed in the Val-Fajr 8 operational theater in Al-Faw peninsula. Enemy road construction around the salt plant in this region was also halted.

Communique No 2,680

LD091552 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 9, IRNA — Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts Monday with the latter suffering substantial casualties and losses, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,680 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven bunkers and observation posts together with one munitions dump destroyed in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions Monday killing a number of enemy soldiers and devastating parts of their fortifications.

The military communique furthermore said that convoys of Iranian patrols gathered intelligence on Iraqi positions in Marivan operational theater, northwestern fronts, Monday setting afire an enemy motor pool. Several enemy vehicles were destroyed.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy bunkers and observation posts destroyed in the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Monday, according to the communique.

According to the communique, Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday inflicting several casualties on enemy troops and destroying several bunkers and observation posts of theirs. Enemy engineering operations were also disrupted.

A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts, Monday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses when Iranian artillery fire hit enemy motorized columns in operational theaters of Mimak, Badrah, and Mandali Monday.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire Monday.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 DECEMBER 1986

Lebanon

Israeli aircraft attacked "terrorist" targets north of Tripoli 11 December, hitting bases belonging to the organizations led by Sabri al-Banna and Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement cited by IDF radio. Beirut radio said that six Israeli planes carried out the raid. which was directed at targets in the Nahr al-Barid area.

As for the camps war, Beirut radio reported that clashes continued in the Shatila camp area 11 December and that 12 people were killed or wounded when rockets struck a mosque in the Al-Shiyah district of southern Beirut. The situation around Maghdushah remained the same, with fighters remaining in their positions. The radio had earlier broadcast an Amal Movement statement accusing the Palestinians of procrastinating about their withdrawal from Maghdushah, stating that they had "reappeared" in positions which they had previously evacuated. Amal had allowed a supply truck and ambulances into the Al-Rashidiyah camp, the statement noted, but it is suspending the dispatch of further supplies into Al-Rashidiyah until the Palestinians show goodwill and resume their withdrawal from Magh-dushah.

In related comment, Amal leader Nabih Birri described the Arab League Council resolution on the camps war as "inadequate and meaningless," according to Radio Monte Carlo. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's claim that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has ordered Syrian forces to seize Shatila. 'Arafat also dismissed any Iranian mediation role in the conflict.

Israel

A 16-year-old girl was wounded by gunfire when IDF soldiers opened fire to disperse a demonstration in the Gaza Strip 10 December, IDF radio reported. However, the West Bank was "relatively quiet," indicating that "the storm is subsiding," the radio said. Regarding the investigation into the death of an Arab boy near Ramallah 8 December, Jerusalem radio said the defense minister has ordered a search for a civilian believed to be responsible for the shooting, disclosing that the man is a guard at one of the Israeli settlements in the area.

Iran

UK Relations; Cooper Affair — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi rejected Britain's demand that Iran release imprisoned British journalist Roger Cooper as a condition for improved bilateral relations, IRNA reported. Britain has repeatedly called for an improvement in relations and even "dared" to raise the issue while it was accusing Syria of involvement in the El Al bomb plot, he said. However, Iran's determination not to expand relations with Britain and its policy on "spies" are both "clear." Musavi's remarks followed an Information Ministry statement that Cooper had been arrested on espionage charges, according to IRNA.

USSR Relations — During talks with visiting Soviet official Konstantin Katushev, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati called for a rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and reaffirmed Iran's desire for Afghanistan to become nonaligned and independent, IRNA reported. Regarding economic cooperation, Katushev and the Iranian energy minister discussed joint construction of a dam over the Aras River, IRNA noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 10 December, according to a military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio.

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Missile Attack on Residential Areas Reported

LD101902 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] The counterrevolutionaries have fired surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Asadabad City and on villages in Narang Subdistrict and Chowkay District, Konar Province once again revealing their inhumane and anti-Islamic character.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that in order to avenge their shameful defeat by the country's courageous Armed Forces these criminals have embarked on cowardly attacks on our innocent compatriots and have martyred seven residents of Asadabad City, including women, children, and old persons. Another 25 persons were wounded.

As a result of the firing of these missiles six houses, including Watan nursery and a shop, were either destroyed or damaged.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent adds that as a result of the firing of surface-to-surface missiles on Narang Subdistrict, 2 of our innocent compatriots were seriously wounded and 11 houses were demolished.

Expressing hatred and revulsion for the perpetrators of this deed the toiling people of Konar Province have denounced imperialism, headed by the criminal Reagan administration which has put weapons of mass destruction at the disposal of Afghan counterrevolutionaries, giving them support and financing them.

'Rebel' Group Crushed in Baghlan Province

LD101855 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] A group of rebels, enemies of our people, tranquillity, and peace, who wanted to make their nest in the surroundings of Baghlan Province and who wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of this region, have been crushed.

The BIA military correspondent has reported that as a result of this successful operation by the Armed Forces, a number of murderers belonging to the notorious Sayaf band have been crushed, and that 30 surface-to-surface missiles, 18 boxes of DShK ammunition, and several U.S. and Chinese-made weapons were seized.

NFF Delegation Departs for Talks in Mongolia

LD110652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 10, BAKHTAR — A delegation of National Fatherland Front (NFF) of the DRA, headed by Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the (NFF) left Kabul for Mongolian People's Republic today.

The delegation is to participate at the 14th session of the Presidium of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, AAPSO, which is due to be held in Ulaanbaatar on December 16, 1986.

British Minister, Natwar Singh View Terrorism
BK101625 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] India and Britain today had a high level discussion on various aspects of terrorism. The visiting minister of state in the British Foreign Office, Mr Timothy Renton, had a meeting with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and later, delegations of the two countries also discussed the issue.

Among the areas covered was the possibility of preventing entry of those likely to indulge in terrorist activities, deportation of terrorists, and their extradition and prosecution. An official spokesman said that the discussions will continue tomorrow, first, at the experts level and, later the ministers will meet.

In reply to a question, he said the issue of an extradition treaty between India and Britain also came up at today's talks.

'Draft Terms' Agreed for U.S. Super Computers
BK110527 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 11 (AFP) — U.S. officials have agreed draft terms to sell India the lastest U.S. super computer after marathon talks on security safeguards, reliable sources said. The agreement followed three days of talks which ran overnight Wednesday between delegations led by U.S. State Department Senior Representative for Technology Transfer Robert Dean and Indian Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran.

India wants the multi-million dollar Cray XMP/24 computer with a 32 megabyte memory, said to be one of the fastest in the world, mainly for monsoon weather research to aid its agriculture. U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed a memorandum of understanding last year opening the way for the transfer of technology. But the United States demanded strong safeguards to prevent the transfer of such high technology as the super computers to the Eastern bloc. It was not known what guarantees the Indians had been able to offer to assure Washington [sentence as received].

An official release after the talks ended overnight said the computer would be sited in New Delhi. The talks had been "fruitful", the release said. The two sides still have to negotiate the specific model and commercial terms before delivery, for which no date has been set, the sources said.

Rajasthan Exercises Should Cause No 'Alarm'
BK111001 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] The chief of Army Staff, General K. Sunderji, says the army exercises in Rajasthan should not cause any alarm to neighbors including Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen in Bangalore today, he said the exercises are held every 3 years and will be continued. They are being conducted in Rajasthan this time as large areas of uncultivated land are available for the maneuvers. He pointed that Pakistan is making hue and cry over it possibly for its own reasons.

The Army chief presented SNA [army] medals to distinguished personnel.

Bilateral Talks With Nepalese Minister Begin
BK110356 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Bilateral Indo-Nepalese discussions began in New Delhi yesterday. The visiting minister of state for finance and industry, Mr B.B. Pradhan, met the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and discussed mainly bilateral economic cooperation. The foreign secretary, Mr Venkateswaran, assisted Mr Natwar Singh in the talks.

The Nepalese miniser also had a meeting with the industry minister, Mr J. Vengal Rao.

Death Sentences of Indira Assassins 'Revenge'
BK110401 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil
1328 GMT 8 Dec 86

[News Commentary]

[Text] The Delhi High Court has upheld the judgement of the Lower Court imposing the death sentence on the three Sikh militants for assassinating the former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. This verdict is a perfect example of the shortcoming in jurisprudence and penal codes all over the world. For the time being, the Tamil Eelam Communist Party would like to set aside the idea that these three persons and Beant Singh, who was slain by the bodyguard of Indira Gandhi, fought for the sake of their people.

The basic principle in this matter is quite significant. Punishment is believed to be the factor for correcting people. On certain occasions parents beat their children hoping that their children will realize their mistakes. Government (?locks up) citizens with the hope that it will benefit them. Practically, there is great difference between parents beating their children and the government punishing the citizens. As far as the government is concerned, it is just to make a part of the punishment a punitive action for an act committed against it.

The reason for the death sentence is also very much connected with this concept. Punishment must be used as an example. People are prevented from committing a crime for fear they will also have to undergo similar punishment for such a crime. Viewed from a different angle it can also be taken for a directly revengeful act. A proper analogy to such an act of revenge is that the beaten child tries to beat its parents back. If the child is of an age to still view its parents as an embodiment of authority, it directs its wrath on a younger child or on a person of a lesser status in the house or on somebody else.

The death sentence passed on the assassins of Indira Gandhi is an act of revenge against those three assassins and those who launched the struggle for the liberation of Khalistan. But here, the contention that the death sentence will be a deterrent in the perpetration of crimes appears to be wrong. If it has to be seen

as an example, people should strongly acknowledge the assassination of Indira Gandhi as a crime. But, in fact, as far as the Sikhs of the world are concerned, the assassination of Indira Gandhi is considered proper revenge for the storming of the Golden Temple and killing thousands of people in it. Nor can we fully endorse this idea. We have already said that political murders will not help realize any objectives. Political murders will produce results contrary to these objectives.

As far as teaching a lesson to the Sikhs of the world is concerned, hanging the assasins of Indira Gandhi will not bear any fruit. In fact, it will yield only negative results. Seen in the light of these events, we can say that hanging a person for a political motive is not only a crime committed against humanitarian considerations, but it can also be considered an outrage against sensible behavior.

Killing in war is different. It is committed due to occasional encounters. But the central government, whose objective is to establish peace among its citizens, gearing up all its machinery to execute the death sentence in an inhuman manner, will set an incorrect example before all citizens. This will also encourage the revolutionary forces in the society to continue their struggle. This should be a lesson to the freedom fighters [of Tamil Eelam] also.

Political tasks warrant due explanation. Tasks explained to the people will be in the interest of the people. People can be dominated on the basis of fear. But to govern them, their hearts and their minds should be especially appealed to. Otherwise, administration will be reduced to the level of mere suppression. Methods of suppression are very tough. The rule of suppression will become gradually tougher and tougher. Eventually, the regime of domination will be shattered altogether. At this juncture, we would like to remind the governments and freedom fighters (?who are keen to carry out) their responsibilities, of these things.

New Violence in Karnataka; Curfew Reimposed

BK101605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, curfew was reimposed in Mysore City following some violent incidents this afternoon. According to the police, a car and two two-wheelers were burnt by miscreants. More than 100 people have been rounded up. The state additional inspector general of police told our Bangalore correspondent that the situation is now under control. Additional forces have since been rushed to the city. The state home minister, Mr Rachaiah, and the rural development minister, Mr Abdul Nazir Sab are camping in the city. Meanwhile, over 20 cities and towns, including Bangalore and Tumkur, where prohibitory orders are enforced, have returned to normalcy.

Mysore 'Under Control' 11 Dec

BK110343 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, the situation in the curfew bound city of Mysore is under control. Curfew had been extended to the entire city since yesterday morning following fresh outbreak of violence. The state home minister, Mr B. Rachaiah, and the rural development minister, Mr Abdul Nazir Sab, are camping in the city. The DIG [Depty Inspector General] of police, Mr Ramanujam told our Bangalore correspondent that no untoward incident was reported in Mysore City since last evening. Our correspondent reports that the situation in other 20 towns and cities including Bangalore and Tumkur where prohibitory orders are in force is now back to normal.

The state governor, Mr A.N. Banerjee, has appealed to the people of Karnataka to cooperate with the authorities to maintain law and order. In a broadcast yesterday he appealed to the youth in particular not to fall prey to the antisocial elements taking advantage of such a situation.

3 Killed in Maharashtra; Disorder in Tamil Nadu

BK110342 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] In Maharashtra, 3 persons were killed and 30 others injured when police opened fire to disperse the agitating Shetkari Sanghatan supporters at Suryagaon in Parbhani District yesterday. At least 15 policemen were also injured in stone throwing. The sangkatan [union] has launched a rashtha roko [block-the-roads] agitation for remunerative price for cotton. According to police, about 2,000 demonstrators tried to block vehicular traffick and indulge in arson and stone throwing. At least five buses were set on fire. The police had to open fire as the lathi [baton] charge failed to disperse the violent crowd.

In Tamil Nadu, the police have been ordered to shoot at anyone attempting to damage public property folowing the burning of three state-owned buses at some places in Madras. The city police commissioner told our correspondent that this was decided after the law-and-order situation was reviewed at a high-level meeting last evening. The incidents followed the arrest of the DMK president, Mr Karunanidhi, for taking part in anti-Hindi agitation. Eighteen DMK supporters were arrested in Madras and remanded to judicial custoday for burning the buses.

Bomb Explosion Reported in Tamil Nadu 11 Dec

BK110957 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, there was a bomb explosion at rail track near (Chinganalur) in Coimbatore District this morning. The blast caused some damage to the track. However, traffic on the route is not affected. Police and CID [Criminal Investigation Department] officials have gone to the site. Meanwhile, the inspector general of police told our Madras correspondent that 30 people have been taken into custody for burning buses in Madras and some other areas of the state in the wake of the anti-Hindi agitation. Police have taken all precautions and a shoot at sight order has been issued to prevent damage to public property.

Akali Leader Urges Sealing of Punjab Borders
BK101621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] The leader of the Akali Dal Badal group in the Punjab Assembly, Mr Amrendra Singh, today said that the borders of Punjab should be effectively sealed to stop infiltration of terrorists from the neighboring country. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he suggested barbed wire fencing and laying of mines along the borders. He, however, opposed the proposal to create security zones in the border areas of Punjab on the ground that this will encroach upon the rights of the state.

Direct Talks With Afghanistan Ruled Out
BK101631 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Nov 86 p 12

[Excerpt] November 26 — Pakistan will not have direct talks with Afghanistan even after the recent changes in the Kabul hierarchy so long as the Soviet troops were stationed there to support the regime.

Pakistan had withdrawn diplomatic recognition of the Kabul regime after the induction of the Soviet troops in December 1979, and firmly rejected moves for direct talks being conducted by Mr Diego Cordovez, personal representative of UN secretary general on Afghanistan issue.

A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman at a press briefing here on Wednesday said in reply to a question, that the government of Pakistan did not contemplate any change in the present Geneva talks format. Nor was Pakistan willing to offer any comment on the Kabul hierarchy reshuffle because Islamabad continue to refuse recognition to the Kabul regime, he observed.

The spokesman said that after his second round of talks in Islamabad following his visit to Kabul, Mr Cordovez would make a visit to Tehran on Thursday flying by a special Pakistan Air Force C- 130 aircraft. Mr Cordovez who has kept Tehran informed of the talks on Afghanistan although Iran declined to join the formal talks, would return to Islamabad within about 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Foreign Secretary Returns From Moscow Visit
BK101114 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Abus Sattar, returned to Islamabad today after his 4-day visit to Moscow. He was invited by the first deputy foreign minsiter, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov. The foreign secretary's meeting with Mr Vorontsov was cordial, positive, and constructive. The Soviet foreign minsiter, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, also received the foreign secretary for a long and useful meeting.

Turkish Delegation Discusses Increasing Trade
BK110448 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] At the meeting between Minister of State for Trade Taslim Nawaz Gardezi and the delegation of Turkish businessmen in Islamabad yesterday, steps to promote trade between Pakistan and Turkey were discussed. At the meeting, problems faced by the exporters in the two countries were also reviewed. The minister of state stressed the need to strengthen the close, fraternal relations between the two countries through an increase in trade and cooperation in other economic fields. He expressed the hope that the present imbalance in trade will be overcome according by the desire of both countries to strengthen relations for mutual benefit.

The Turkish trade delegation lauded the full cooperation extended by the Pakistani Government and traders. The delegation also met with the president and the members of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They discussed possibility of starting joint industrial ventures in addition to removing trade imbalances.

Both sides expressed satisfaction that the Governments of Pakistan and Turkey are providing a permanent loan of $50 million to promote bilateral trade.

Continued U.S. 'Interest' Pledged to New Envoy
BK101627 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Nov 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Washington, Nov 26 — President Reagan says that the new multi-year United States' aid programme for Pakistan would add to the country's strength and confidence.

Accepting the credentials of new Pakistani Ambassador Jamshed Marker at a White House ceremony on Monday, he [President Reagan] reaffirmed United States "continuing and profound" interest in Pakistan's security, economic development, and peaceful aspirations. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Gorbachev Comments in Delhi
BK101406 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Gorbachev's Stand"]

[Text] The Soviet leader's visit to India and the talks being held in New Delhi amidst much fanfare is a subject being closely followed by commentators on international affairs, media men, and the governments particularly in the region. Mr. Gorbachev's parleys with the Indian leaders quite naturally impinge on the sensitivities of not only the Government of Pakistan but also the people who eagerly await the outcome of the much publicised visit. The first ingredient of the speech of Mr. Gorbachev was that the relations between India and the USSR did not in any way counter or challenge the legitimate rights of other countries; which by corollary included Pakistan. Earlier he was reported to have told Indian journalists that the Soviet Union did not have expansionist designs on Afghanistan and did not intend to keep its troops in that country forever. He elaborated the statement by adding that the Soviet Union stood for a non-aligned and independent Afghanistan and that the day was not far when the question of the political settlement of the problem (around Afghanistan) was resolved. This, he said, would simultaneously mean the solution of the question of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Mr. Gorbachev is also reported to have said that the Soviet Union had always had good relations with its neighbour, Afghanistan, under all regimes and governments adding "of course we are not going to stay there forever."

The expression of these sentiments is indeed heartening for the government and the people of Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Office, therefore, rightly welcomed the Soviet leader's statement that Indo-Soviet relations did not counter or challenge the real and legitimate interests of other countries. Pakistan expressed the desire to develop close relations with the Soviet Union, a neighbour and a superpower which is a permanent member of the

Security Council. While expressing undiluted desire of maintaining cordial relations with the Soviet Union Pakistan emphasised that because of its singular position in world affairs the Soviet Union was vested with the primary responsibility of maintaining peace to which end it would never find Pakistan non-cooperative. The Foreign Office spokesman also said that the prospects of South Asia's future was directly linked with respect for universally recognised principles of sovereign equality, non-interference, non-intervention and non-use of force.

While Pakistan has been impressing all along that it wished to develop close and cordial relations with the Soviet Union, a neighbourly superpower, the only irritant in the furtherance of these objectives has been the presence of massive troops in Afghanistan, an issue on which it has taken a principled stand. The UN special emissary on Afghanistan, Mr. Diego Cordovez, has again resumed his shuttle diplomacy for the resolution of this question which vitally effects the interests of Pakistan. The talks now centre round the instrument fixing the time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan leaving the people of the country to decide their own future in accordance with their own wishes. It might well be noted that Pakistan is not inimical to a pro-Moscow Government in Kabul. It is interested in a complete, albeit phased, withdrawal of troops, return of refugees to their homes and the ushering in of a tension free atmosphere in the region. To satisfy some of the concerns of the Soviet Union, Pakistan has provided international guarantees as asked for, which goes to show the bonafides of the Pakistan Government.

As a superpower which has a significant role to play in global affairs we do expect the Soviet Union to adopt a constructive and progressive approach to the talks being currently held. Let the Soviet Union agree to a time-table for the withdrawal of troops in the minimum possible time. The people of Afghanistan have been subjected to a great deal of oppression for the last seven years. Let this ordeal come to an end. If this expectation from the Soviet Union is fulfilled it will emerge as a pioneer in the comity of nations committed to the cause of eternal peace.

India's Border Exercises 'Provocative Move'
BK111115 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 86

[News commentary by Professor Parvez Iqbal Cheema]

[Text] Ordinarily, nations avoid the holding of military exercises near the borders of a neighboring country as such a pursuit would arouse (?undefined) apprehensions and generate unnecessary frictions. Being fully cognizant of this cooperative tradition within the comity of nations, India's recent amassing of troops on Pakistan borders, ostensibly for military exercises, does not seem to be without other objectives.

Without any deep probe one could easily detect two objectives such an exercise could serve. First, to demonstrate to the Soviets that India, being a good friend of the Soviets, is willing to pressurize Pakistan with a view to pin down its forces on the eastern border as well as shifting the focus of attention from the western to the eastern borders. Second, to lend credence to Indian accusation that Pakistan was involved in the Sikh crisis. As almost all independent observers have agreed that Pakistan is not involved in the ongoing Sikh crisis, it needed to take such an action that could at least convince its own public. Such a move could not only divert the public focus on Sikh crisis but would lend credence to its own version of the crisis. India, in pursuit of its own objectives, has not only violated the accepted norms of civilized behavior but seems to be consistently engaged in setting up dangerous precedent. Professing Gandhian principles of pacifism such behavior contradicts its expressed intention and helps to reveal their real motives.

Apprehensive about India's intention and conscious of its past antagonistic relations, Prime Minister Junejo's response seems to be extremely rational and responsible. Not only he took the representatives of the people into confidence and apprised them of the exact situation but remained cool and calculated toward this extremely provocative Indian move. His assertion that the situation on the borders was exaggerated in the media and threats to the country were blown out of proportion not only reflects realism but also seems to be a Pakistani contribution in strengthening the normalization process even under pressurized conditions. His firm but positive response has certainly assured the nation in his abilities to handle the situation deemed to be on the edge.

India's current moves put Junejo's crisis management abilities to a severe test; but he has emerged unstinted and much larger than what the Indians expected. The visit to GHQ [General Headquarters] and the combined briefings have not only enabled the civilian representatives and military personnel to interact but also highlighted the fact that how much better understanding could emerge if both worked together in congruence to the dictates of national interest. Instead of opting for the executives to work in collaboration with the military establishment, Prime Minister Junejo decided to arrange interactions between the executives, both civil and military, and the representatives of the people. If such innovative practices are allowed to develop further, the chances for resolving many national as well as international crises would certainly intensify.

Velayati Meets Visiting Soviet Official 10 Dec

LD111015 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday [10 December] called for rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan saying their presence was detrimental to the interests of the regional people. Foreign Minister Velayati reiterated Iran's demand for creation of a non-aligned and independent Afghanistan, adding that Iran sympathised with the Muslim Afghan people in determining their own fate.

Speaking in a meeting with the visiting chairman of the State Committee for the Soviet Foreign Economic Relations, Konstantin Katushev, the foreign minister referred to the Iraqi imposed war and said the downfall of the Iraqi regime was impending. He added that Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn committed the same crimes that Hitler did in attacking the Soviet Union and, therefore, he should receive due punishment.

Expressing satisfaction over the positive developments in relations between the two countries in the recent months, he said the USSR's commitment to its undertakings would provide grounds for overall expansion of Tehran-Moscow relations.

During the meeting, Katushev announced his country's willingness for expansion of relations with Iran in all fields. He also hoped that the joint commission would be a major step in this direction. The Soviet official also affirmed that Iraq had initiated the war against Iran and hoped it would end 'justly'.

Katushev, heading a delegation, arrived here on Dec 8 to take part in the tenth ministerial session of the permanent commission for Tehran-Moscow economic cooperation.

Musavi on Arrested Journalist, Ties With UK

LD101732 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi has rejected conditions set by the British Government to upgrade its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Britain is demanding the release of imprisoned British journalist John Roger Cooper, arrested in Iran on charges of espionage, as a condition for improving of Tehran-London relations. The prime minister said that his cabinet investigated the request of British officials a few weeks ago but disapproved of any type of promotion in Irano-British relations.

Premier Musavi who was speaking at the end of a cabinet session here furthermore said that the Information Ministry would shortly announce more details on the case of the British journalist arrested for spying.

The London Government has repeatedly demanded that Iran-Britain relations be improved and even once Britain dared repeat its demand while accusing Syria of being involved in an alleged plot to bomb an Israeli air liner at London airport, Musavi said.

Musavi said that Britain in a bid to avoid facing the same difficulties as the U.S. Government, has temporarily suspended efforts to upgrade her relations with the Islamic Republic pending Iran's decision on the detained British national. Reiterated Musavi "the fate of spies as well as Iran's determination not to expand her relations with Britain are clear."

In another development, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, who participated in funeral ceremonies of martyrs of the December 6 Iraqi air raid on Ahvaz on behalf of the government conveyed to the cabinet a message from the resistant people of the southern city, which called for several reprisal measures against the Iraqi regime.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also briefed the cabinet on recent clashes between Amal militiamen and Palestinians in Lebanon. He said the clashes in Lebanon were a plot hatched by certain politicians to [words indistinct] their talks with the regime occupying Jerusalem. The cabinet also lauded Lebanese Hezbollah group, Amal Movement, Palestinians, and Shi'ites and Sunni ulema for their cooperation with Iran in implementing an Iranian-proposed ceasefire.

Ershad-e Islami (Islamic Guidance) Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami who has just returned from a visit to Pakistan handed the cabinet a sum of dlrs 10,200 as well as 376,352 Pakistani rupees donated by the Pakistani people to be spent at the war fronts.

Former President Says 'No One in Control'

AU101226 Rome ANSA in English 1032 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Milan, December 10 — The arms-for-Iran scandal does not involve just United States, but also the Israelis, and Saudi Arabian, Algerian, and European businessmen, not to mention the CIA and the Italian Mafia "selling arms in exchange for drugs", according to former Iranian president, Bani-Sadr.

Interviewed for the latest edition of the Italian weekly, *Gente*, the exiled head-of-state, who was forced to leave his homeland in 1981, also claimed that "no-one" is currently in control of the situation in Iran. "It's chaos," he asserted. "One day, when Khomeyni is no longer there, we'll discover that, just as was once the case in China, Iran of the 1980's is run by a "gang of four". He identified the "four" as being:

— Ahmad Khomeyni, the ayatollah's son "through whose eyes the father sees the world";
— Prime Minister Musavi, "who counts less and less";
— Akhbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "who has made enemies everywhere in his attempts to count more";
— Khomeyni's designated successor, Ayatollah Montazeri, who disclosed Iran's purchase of U.S. arms.

Bani-Sadr also speculated that the Iranian authorities' tough reaction to an Italian TV sketch poking fun at Khomeyni was related to the fact that the Italian public television network, RAI, had interviewed him live just a few days previously. Bani-Sadr recalled that RAI interviewed him live from Paris to hear his views on the arms-for-Iran scandal. "Well, in the Iranian leaders' view, a state television cannot take me seriously, or propagate my opinions and then make fun on Khomeyni," the former head-of-

state asserted. "They can never accept that someone like me, whom Khomeyni hunted from the country, is taken seriously, by the same television that then makes fun of him".

Former Navy Chief on Money to Oppose Government

AU111323 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 11 (AFP) — Admiral Ahmad Madani, the former Iranian Navy commander-in-chief currently in exile in Europe, Thursday confirmed U.S. reports that he had received money from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as aid in his efforts to oppose the Tehran government. In an interview here with *Agence France-Presse*, Mr Madani said he had been given one million dollars by the CIA in 1981 but broke off with the agency after it had demanded information in exchange for the funds. He said he considered the money as a "loan" which he used only to aid his supporters in exile. "I was opposed to the slightest commitment" imposed by the CIA, he added.

The Washington Post said recently that Mr Madani's group had received "several million dollars" by order of CIA director William Casey "but proved too independent by insisting on control of their own anti-Khomeyni operations."

Mr Madani secretly left Iran in September 1980 after a short period as defence minister in the provisional government set up after the overthrow of the shah in February 1979. He lives in Paris and West Germany. He said Thursday he maintained ties with "comparative moderates" in Iran as well as government officials in the United States and Europe. But he denied that he had had any part in the delivery of U.S. arms to Tehran. Mr Madani, who said he was in charge of buying spare parts for the Iranian Army immediately after the revolution, estimated that the U.S. shipments probably reached "hundreds of millions of dollars." But he added that most Western countries, notably France and Italy, delivered arms in small shipments to Iran.

He appealed to the United States to stop selling arms to both parties in the Gulf war, but admitted that it was "impossible to leave the Iranian people defenceless." The admiral also declared that he had been asked by the Iranian Government to return to Tehran in 1984 as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. But he refused the offer because the government rejected his conditions for the job — namely that Tehran follow a principle of non-involvement in domestic Iraqi affairs, he said.

Envoy to Paris Meets With France's Raimond

LD110747 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 11, IRNA — Iran's charge d'affaires to France Gnolam Reza Haddadi met with the French External Relations Minister, Jean Bernard Raimond, here Wednesday afternoon. During the one-hour meeting the two sides discussed normalisation of relations and continuation of negotiations to this end. The Iranian charge d'affaires stressed the need to speed up repayment of the rest of the French debt to Iran.

In 1974 Iran granted a one-billion-dollar loan to the French Atomic Energy Commissariat which is now believed to have doubled taking into account its due interest. The French Government recently paid back dlrs. 330 million as the first installment. Iranian diplomats in Paris say that a French delegation in charge of the negotiations is expected to arrive in Tehran in the next few days.

French officials on various occasions have announced desire for normalisation of relations with Iran. Following the expulsion of the terrorist MKO Leader Masoud Rajavi from Paris and Premier Chirac's remarks admitting that the group was involved in armed struggle against Iran, settlement of financial disputes is regarded as a positive step in normalisation of Tehran-Paris ties.

Commerce Minister Comments on Economic Program

PM100953 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Dec 86 p 18

[Part one of exclusive *Keyhan* interview by unidentified correspondent with Minister of Trade and Commerce 'Abedi Ja'fari; date and place not given]

[Text] */Keyhan/* Following the fall in petroleum prices the government initiated a new economic policy. What effects has this new economic package had on the country's trade, especially foreign trade — both in terms of changing trading partners and also in terms of the percentage of the various groups of imported and exported items?

['Abedi Ja'fari] The enemy aims to force the Islamic Republic of Iran into submission in any way possible. None of these small and large plots has been able to force this country to bow its head toward the aggressive colonialists so this time they have tried to bring us into submission by lowering our revenues and hard currency earnings. This is why they have come after our main source of hard currency — oil. With the help of their lackeys they are trying to cut off or lessen the flow of this lifeblood of our economy.

The enemy has divided this operation into two parts. One is presenting the thesis of lower oil prices on the world market and the second strategy is destroying or damaging the Islamic Republic's oil installatons, including both production and export facilities.

To foil this plot there had to be a struggle on two fronts. One was to immediately arrange a new economic package for the country. This new policy had to be able to minimize any damage caused by the sudden drop in oil prices and oil resources and the inevitable fall in hard currency reserves. The second point was that the government had to make the best use of these conditions and to turn this issue into a launching pad to further advance the growth of the Islamic Revolution.

It would be incorrect for us to start thinking that such a huge plot was planned without the help of internal elements kept inside Iran by world aggression. So, alongside this plot we also witnessed successive internal reactions. The first coordinated effort in this area was the unveiling of state economic secrets in one of the newspapers. The most secret information was thus published in the worst possible way quoting several people. Knowingly or unknowingly this action was, in effect, a kind of cooperation and

coordination with the Westerners and superpowers who had plotted the issue.

Their aim was to lower the people's morale in their struggle against the effects of this plot. Another negative act undertaken by the internal elements of the aggressors was to create chaos in the distribution of essential items and to engage in the hoarding of these goods.

Yet another action taken in this connection was to cleverly try to say that the government was forced to take these new economic measures because of new conditions and lower oil prices, thereby letting the world aggressors off the hook. This meant they were trying to direct the people's complaints toward the regime and the Government of the Islamic Republic, so as to put the blame on our official rather than against world aggression.

Another problem that they caused was to oppose any quick action the government wanted to take by putting lables on them such as saying they were "uncalled for" or else that they were "against religious laws." This caused a slowdown in the government's movement in facing these issues. In any case, the government planned and implemented its new economic policy despite all the problems we knew were going to be created inside the country alongside the external elements.

This is a 2-year program for 1986 and 1987 and most of its activities center on ways to face the new conditions that have been imposed on us. Using these new conditions is a kind of launching pad to achieve the goals of the Islamic Republic in the field of economy and self-sufficiency.

There are five main goals at the top of this economic program. The first of these is to provide all the things needed by the imposed war, making full use of all internal resources and capabilities. The second aim is to provide all the necessities of the country's agriculture and natural resources so as to fully utilize the country's capabilities. The third goal is to provide the minimum basic requirements for a revolutionary society in war, with fixed prices, including efforts to control the general level of prices.

The fourth goal was to continue the movement to correct the economic set up — to cut off dependence on oil and keep the level of productive employment as high as possible. The fifth goal was to change consumer habits.

With regard to the effects of this new economic policy on foreign trade, I must say that for one thing our foreign currency earnings have been devoted to items that we really need. The movement the government started in this area was the immediate choosing of those goods most needed by our society. So, foreign trade investments for imports were devoted mostly to these goods.

This is how this was done: Priority was given to defense items, then to medicines and essential goods, and then, further down the list of priorities, were other items such as foodstuffs, clothing, and so on.

Of course, it must be said that the drop in oil prices and lower hard currency earnings have had an effect on our imports in terms of the nature of the goods we bring in. For example, in 1983, when the Government of the Islamic Republic had the most hard currency for imports at its disposal, this was the breakdown of the items needed in various areas: Essential items took up 20 percent of the hard currency earnings, raw materials and machinery for the Ministry of Industries 30.8 percent, necessities for the Ministry of Heavy Industries 16.44 percent, agriculture 10.8 percent, and the field of trade, other than essential items, 21.96 percent.

Here is a breakdown of the five main areas for currency spending in the first 6 months of 1986, when the effects of the new economic program could be felt: Essential items accounted for 55 percent of our entire imports, necessities for the Ministry of Industries 20.72 percent, heavy industries 7.67 percent, agriculture 6.73 percent, and other imported goods 9.84 percent.

As the figures show, essential items account for more than 50 percent. These include wheat, edible oil, rice, and other necessary items. The lower share given to industry shows that, in general, most of our dependence was in the industrial field. Our industry is the first thing that will be hurt when attacked. This is why we have the biggest cuts in this area. The government's aim is to stress those fields that have the least dependence on foreign currency.

The share cut from agriculture is far less than the cut in the share of the industrial sector. I must also add that in order to safeguard employment and to help in the advancement of small producers and production guilds, a special sum of hard currency has been put aside. The Ministry of Industries has taken the responsibility of importing the goods needed in these areas. These items are slowly beginning to arrive and will be placed at these people's disposal.

With regard to our trading partners, because most of our imported items are strategic goods or essentials, it is natural that, as compared to previous years, the makeup of our trade partners has swung in favor of countries producing such goods. This trend has also moved in favor of Islamic or Third World nations, rather than Western countries which usually produce the latest in industrial hardware. These changes are evident in the formation of the various blocs of trading partners following the drop in oil prices compared with previous years. For example, before the Islamic Revolution the Western bloc provided some 85 percent of our import needs. In 1979 this figure dropped to 80 percent and in 1980 to 66 percent. In 1983 the figure rose to 73 percent because of an overall increase in imports. But in the first 6 months of 1986, which witnessed the fall in petroleum prices, this figure again dropped to 66 percent.

The Eastern bloc socialist countries, which accounted for some 6.8 percent of Iran's import trade before the revolution, accounted for 7 percent in 1979, 15 percent in 1980, and 8 percent in 1983. In 1986 this figure dropped to 7 percent.

There are no specific figures for Islamic and Third World trade partners before the revolution. Altogether they had 8.16 percent of Iran's trade before the revolution. In 1979 Islamic countries took 4 percent and Third World nations 7.5 percent, and in 1983 Islamic nations took 10 percent and the Third World 9 percent.

In the first 6 months of 1986 the Islamic countries took 15 percent and Third World nations took a 7 percent share of Iran's commerce.

This means that commerce with these nations, which totaled 8.16 percent before the revolution, has increased to 22 percent. In other words, during the first 6 months of 1986 close to 25 percent of the Islamic Republic's purchases have been from Islamic or Third World countries.

[Keyhan] It seems that Turkey, which is one of our main trading partners, has been included in the list of Islamic and Third World nations. If we remove Turkey from the list, it would change the figures considerably and we would see that the pattern has not changed all that much during the first 6 months of 1986.

If we really recognize the West as the one delivering blows to our economy, then it would be appropriate to considerably decrease our trade with the West. This has not happened since the new economic plan has been implemented. In addition to this, before the revolution Turkey was considered to be part of the European bloc and the EEC, yet today it is considered an Islamic state and Third World nation.

['Abedi Ja'fari] With regard to Islamic nations, we do not have a state like the Islamic Republic of Iran outside our own borders. So it is natural that those Islamic countries we deal with have a Muslim population or a minimum sort of Islamic government. In addition to this, being neighbors and having the least amount of expense in trade are bonus points in favor of trade ties with these nations.

It is true that Turkey, within the bloc of Islamic countries, has taken a large portion of our trade, but one must not forget that nations such as Pakistan, which sells us rice as an essential item plus other necessary goods, take up a considerable percentage within the Islamic nations group. Some other Islamic states such as those in Africa and so on are gradually opening up a place for themselves to have trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another important point in answering your question is that 6 months is not a long time to evaluate the results of the fall in oil prices on our trade relations and partners. Because of agreements, contract, and so on, changing commerce partners needs a longer time — 1 year for example — so as to be able to make some changes in the contracts and letters of understanding. Using these conditions, we could then stabilize our direction.

Figures show that these positions are taking their own directions and advancing. If God is willing, by the end of 1987 the figures will show that what the West thought was a plot against the Islamic Republic will have had quite the opposite results, and what their plot left for us is exactly the opposite of what they expected.

The enemy considered several things as its basis for action. Their first assumption was that this country was heavily dependent on oil revenues and that it would not be able to rid itself of this dependence very quickly and to achieve other sources of income, including nonoil exports. Their second assumption must have been that the consumer habits created for our people during the disgraceful reign of the father and son [The Pahlavi dynasty], especially after 1973, which saw a sharp increase in oil prices, would be difficult to change. They thought that we would surrender in the face of the pressures of demand and shortages.

In the field of exports, the direction that was chosen and acted upon within the new economic package was to push all possible facilities toward exporting nonoil products. This would enable this factor to take its place as a healthy one within the country's economy.

For example, in the first 7 months of the current year, some 302 tons of goods valued at $434 million was exported. In comparison, for the same period in 1985 we saw a decrease in terms of weight, but in value we saw an increase of 67 percent. Perhaps we are first in the world in terms of non-oil exports in 1985. All this has caused the road to be opened for non-oil exports to make way for a healthy movement in this field.

In terms of quality, new products have been added to our list of nonoil exports. It must also be said that this year, with the help of the Almighty, we have had several trade delegations who have visited other countries to promote our nonoil products, and this is perhaps the first time that this has been done.

As far as various fields are concerned, within the framework of exports, the industrial sector has not had a large share because of problems regarding raw materials. So, 42.85 percent of these exports are made up of agricultural products.

Mineral products also do not have a large share of these exports because of the problems that remain to be solved. Of course there have been some laws passed in this regard which have opened up the path for the export of minerals. If God is willing, we should see considerable improvements in the field of nonoil exports.

Rugs and handicrafts used to make up 41 percent of our total exports and another 12 percent dealt with other products. The most important exports in terms of their value included rugs, fresh fruits, pistachios, animal skins, animal guts, caviar, raisins, and spices. The total hard currency obtained from the sale of nonoil exports in the first 7 months of the current year was $434 million. In order to encourage exporters, some currency discounts are taken into consideration. This figure is usually the currency that does not return directly to the Central Bank. Calculating these discounts within the total sum of exports, about $354 of the $434 million in hard currency is not affected by discounts. This means that 81.63 percent of the hard currency is returned directly and 18.36 percent or nearly $80 million is the hard currency the government gives as a discount by not demanding it from exporters. If we continue our current trend, we expect this year's nonoil exports to be between $700 and $800 million.

Some of the things that have been brought into the country in exchange for the currency earned from nonoil exports in the first 6 months of this year include coffee, spices, chemical material, cleaning materials, and items used in the packaging of goods.

[Keyhan] With regard to nonoil exports, there are some issues that prevent these from expanding. It seems that the private

sector has acted in an unpraiseworthy manner. On the one hand this sector has been exporting a great quantity of items needed by the people, which in turn has increased the price of these items considerably. This has caused problems and pressure for lower-income families. This means that the increase in our nonoil exports has meant higher prices for the lower-income levels of our society.

On the other hand, it takes a long time to get a bank receipt following a deposit. So it has been noted that in some cases the exporter gets his hard currency earned as a result of his trade much sooner than mentioned in the bank receipt. Therefore the exporter engages in deals abroad and puts some of his personal profit in foreign bank accounts.

It seems that the incentive measures adopted for the private sector have caused an increase in nonoil exports, but it must also be noted that it places at the disposal of the private sector a large proportion of the hard currency earned. This enables this sector to bring into the country nonessential items independent of the wishes of the government. What explanations can you give with regard to these problems? Also what sort of encouragement or mechanism has been chosen to bring back into the country's economy the hard currency earned from the sale of nonoil items?

['Abdedi Ja'fari] The first goal at the start of the new economic program was to activate nonoil exports. Thank God the figures show that this has been done. Today we are not as worried as before about activating this sector.

In the second stage there is the question of the direction of these exports. Some of the problems you mentioned were thought about in the first stage of the program. This means that we knowingly used methods of encouragement to activate such exports. Even now we are forced to use similar methods to enter markets where we have never had a presence before, so that we can present our goods to those markets.

But from now on, under the present circumstances of the new economic package there are plans that are really in the second phase of our nonoil export effort. The aim is to see how we can push this export effort in a completely correct direction, without decreasing its speed, in a way that would prevent the damage incurred at the start of the movement. For example there are plans to have a stock market for nonoil products in these new economic conditions. Nonoil currency would be exchanged in this stock market, but the management of the market would be up to the government and the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Or we could have the money earned from exports placed in a fund that could be used to further identify the needs of the export sector such as participating in trade fairs.

I would like to elaborate on some of the points you have raised. We have implemented three methods in order to raise nonoil exports:

1. The method of buying back hard currency earned as a result of exports is done at a preferential rate. This means that the Central Bank has to buy this hard currency based on the type of goods exported and the amount of hard currency earned as a result of the export at a better rate. In some cases such as apples, which we have in large quantities, the preferential rate for their export has been estimated at up to about 400 percent. Other items have a difference of 5 or 10 percent and so on.

2. The second method to encourage exports was to allow the exporter to import necessary items in exchange for the goods that he was selling abroad. This meant that the exporter would have two sets of profits. One profit was the export itself and the incentive measures given to him by the government, and another was the profit that he earned from the goods that he was importing and distributing in the domestic market. This was also considered to be an encouraging factor for exporters.

3. The third factor was in the form of "prizes" and cash bonuses, which was hardly used at all.

What we are more concerned with and what has been thought about, which could be damaging to our distribution system, is the fact that exporters are allowed to import goods in exchange for what they have exported. Of course there were some measures taken, such as making a list of goods that would be allowed into the country in exchange for exports. This list had to provide the needs of our society. It did not include those items not allowed into the country or those goods way down on our list of priorities.

As we have mentioned before, some of those goods not controlled in terms of prices and distribution have caused problems on the domestic market and this year, if God is willing, we have to deal with the issue in a more organized manner.

Under the new economic conditions it seems we have been successful in our direction. Decreasing imports of nonessential items or those that are not all that necessary has been successful. The brothers familiar with economic affairs in the Islamic Republic indicate that this country can be run with $12 billion in hard currency. But this needs planning and careful consideration. This pressure imposed by the superpowers caused us to quicken our pace with regard to our aim of limiting imports.

Our imports, which were more than $18 billion in 1983, have decreased; fortunately exports have enjoyed considerable growth since 1982. Of course if we place these two factors side by side, there is still a huge difference when comparing our imports to our nonoil exports. But we must hope to achieve some sort of balance in the coming years. What is even more important is the ratio of our nonoil exports to our imports. In 1980 and 1983 about 6.2 percent and 2 percent respectively of our total imports were offset by exports. In 1986 this figure rose to 10.33 percent. We consider this a healthy sign in our foreign trade.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

'Further Blows' Dealt Inside Iraq

LD101747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit in the wake of a series of guerrilla and infiltration operations by Islam's combatants, under the command of the Ramadan headquarters, deep inside Iraqi territory, culminating in the destruction of certain installa-

tions and facilities of Saddam's Zionist regime, Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollahi forces, commanded by Shaykh Muhammad Khalidi, dealt further blows against the Ba'thists on 8 December 1986. During these operations the command headquarters of the Sherwan Battalion and (Mulbakr) Company affiliated to the Margah Sur Governorate in Irbil Province were attacked 60 km deep inside Iraqi territory and as a result, the two command centers of the Iraqi forces were utterly destroyed.

During these operations, while causing heavy losses to the Army of the Saddam regime, a number of servicemen stationed in these headquarters were either killed or wounded.

According to reliable reports coming from inside Iraqi territory, in addition to these operations another group of the Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollahi forces, set up an ambush on the Sherwan-Margah Sur highway and destroyed one Iraqi Army vehicle killing six of its passengers.

Further IRGC, Kurdish Operations

LD111153 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11, IRNA — Tens of light and heavy Iraqi arms, several wireless units, and some vehicles were set ablaze and a big complex was demolished and its personnel killed during an operation of Muslim combatants along Kani Masi-Zakhu road inside Iraqi territory this week.

The operation was carried out by forces under the command of Ramadan headquarters for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and in collaboration with Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

'Sikrava' Brigade of the 38th Army Division of Iraq was demolished by 80 percent and a great number of its personnel were killed or wounded. There were several officers and NCO's, including First Lieutenant 'Azad Hatim Khalifah, commander of an Iraqi battalion, among the slain. A number of Iraqi forces were also captured by Muslim combatants during the operations.

In another operation this week, military bases of 'Shaqlawah' and 'Nahuki' [name as received] along Zakhu-Kani Masi axis were damaged during an attack by Muslim combatants. In Dahuk also, a big livestock breeding complex was demolished.

The Turkish television has reportedly screened a film on the casualties inflicted on the Iraqi Army during the operation with bodies of Iraqi forces and demolished vehicles also on display.

Iraqi Jets Over Ilam Forced To Flee

LD101751 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Ilam, Dec 10, IRNA — Iraqi planes broke the sound barrier over Ilam and some other cities in the province at 17:00 hours local time (13:30 GMT) Wednesday.

The enemy planes were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire, before carrying out their bombing mission.

Communique No 2,681

LD101605 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants on Tuesday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces here Wednesday.

Communique Number 2,681 said that Iranian forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions and gun emplacements in the northwestern fronts Tuesday [9 December] inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops and silencing their fire.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in Bakhtaran and Ostan-e Ilam border fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin operational theaters where Iraqi armoured units and motorized columns sustained considerable damage under Iranian artillery fire.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces continued fortifying their positions simultaneously with their shelling of Iraqi positions Tuesday. Convoys of Iranian patrols also inflicted several casualties on Iraqi patrols in these fronts.

Activities of those Iraqi tanks which came within the range of Iranian artillery fire were suppressed in Hoseyniyeh and Eyn-Khvosh operational regions, southern fronts, Tuesday, the communique said.

According to the communique, Iranian Gendarmerie forces maintained their fire superiority over Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Tuesday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several vehicles of theirs.

Communique No 2,682

LD111545 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11, IRNA — Iraqi troops suffered substantial casualties and losses and movements of their motorized columns were suppressed throughout the war fronts by heavy Iranian artillery and mortar fire on Wednesday, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2,682 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers destroyed in the northwestern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Wednesday.

Elsewhere, in Marivan operational region, northwestern fronts, a number of Iraqi artillery pieces were destroyed and their crews killed by Iranian artillery fire.

In the western fronts, Iranian forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops on Wednesday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying five bunkers. Some Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in these fronts sustained several casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

Heavy casualties and losses were also inflicted on Iraqi troops in the southern fronts Wednesday. Enemy tank fire was silenced in 'Eyn-Khvosh operational region.

The Iranian Gendarmerie forces maintained their fire-power superiority over Iraqi troops inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them and disrupting their engineering operations. Movement of enemy vehicle columns was also checked.

Movement of a squadron of ten Iraqi tanks in the southern operation theater of Chazzabeh was suppressed by Iranian artillery fire Wednesday, according to the communique.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 DECEMBER 1986

Lebanon

Fighting between Palestinian and Amal gunmen continued in the camps war. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted that 3 people were killed and 20 wounded in the shelling of Shatila and that 3 others were killed and 10 wounded in the bombardment of Al-Rashidiyah. Meanwhile, the Iranian delegation trying to effect the implementation of a cease-fire agreement left Beirut for consultations in Damascus, Voice of National Resistance radio reported. In remarks carried by KUNA, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalif rejected the cease-fire proposal sponsored by Iran. Khalif revealed that the Soviet Union sent "strongly worded and decisive messages" to Damascus on the subject of the camps war. In a related development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that PFLP leader George Habash accepted a Soviet offer to mediate an end to the camps fighting.

According to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, 6 people were killed and 17 wounded in the 11 December Israeli raid on Fatah positions. Fatah Revolutionary Council member Salim Abu 'Imad was among those killed, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Israel

In remarks cited by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that direct negotiations are the only way to solve the Mideast problem and urged Egypt and Jordan to resume talks to promote peace in the spirit of Camp David.

In an effort to enhance its security, Israel completed the installation of a new fence system along its borders with Syria and Lebanon, Jerusalem radio revealed.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi air strikes destroyed runways, hangars, and other facilities at a "large military air base" in central Iran, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported. INA announced that Iraqi forces are in "full control" of northern Iraq following large-scale military operations 6 November to 6 December by Iraqi troops and "Kurdish national defense regiments." The agency noted that the forces of Jalal al-Talabani and the "Khomeyni guards" sustained "massive losses," including 558 confirmed dead.

In action against Iraq, Iranian artillery inflicted "considerable damage" on the Al-Bakr oil platform, IRNA reported.

Iran-USSR

Finance Minister Javid Iravani and Soviet official Konstantin Katushev signed a protocol on economic cooperation, Tehran radio reported. The finance minister thanked Katushev for his "positive spirit" during the 3 days of talks, the radio noted. In a prior meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told Katushev that conditions are "favorable" for the expansion of bilateral relations, IRNA reported, adding that Musavi stressed Iran's call for an immediate Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed domestic issues in a speech before a session of the General People's Committees broadcast by Tripoli television. On the subject of reducing food imports, Al-Qadhdhafi advised every Libyan family to grow enough grain to supply its needs for a year. Furthermore, he announced the introduction of a barter system whereby citizens must exchange homegrown wheat or barley for imported grain products. The Libyan leader also called for the implementation of a plan to have civilians assume some of the responsibility for self-defense tasks such as guard duty.

Involvement in Chad — A Chadian Government "press release" carried by Ndjamena radio announced that "unprecedented fighting" broke out in Bardai when Libyan forces launched air and ground attacks on government positions. The statement, which also accused the Libyans of using napalm and toxic gas, notes that the situation is "grave."

Sudan

According to SUNA, four men were sentenced to life imprisonment for their part in the May 1969 coup in which former President Ja'far Numayri seized power.

"Reliable military sources" told *Al-Hadaf* that government troops are carrying out large-scale operations aimed at evicting SPLA rebels from their fortified camps in Equatoria, SUNA reported.

DRA

PDPA Secretary General Najibullah and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev began talks in Moscow, TASS reported.

Egypt

In Paris President Husni Mubarak and French President Francois Mitterrand held lengthy talks focusing on the Mideast situation, Paris radio reported.

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Natwar Singh, UK's Renton Conclude Talks

BK111613 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] India and Britain have concluded the current round of talks on an extradition treaty and decided to hold further discussions on the subject later. Delegations of the two countries have been meeting in New Delhi since yesterday to discuss various provisions of the proposed treaty and arrive at a mutually acceptable text. The British side was led by the minister of state in the foreign office, Mr Timothy Renton, while Mr Natwar Singh, the minister of state for external affairs, headed the Indian team.

An official spokesman told newsmen today that Mr Natwar Singh will be visiting London to continue to the talks. No date has, however, been fixed.

The spokesman said Mr Natwar Singh expressed India's serious concern at the anti-Indian extremist and terrorist activities in the United Kingdom. He told the British minister that these have cast a shadow on the relations between the two countries.

Mr Renton, while expressing understanding of India's concern, affirmed his government's determination to deal with these activities effectively.

Discussions also covered specific measures to deal with these problems. Besides the extradition treaty, the measures discussed include exclusion or deportation of those encouraging extremist or terrorist activity and prosecution. The two sides also agreed to examine the possibility of further strengthening their laws to deal with these problems.

Statement Issued on Visit

BK111753 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1725 GMT 11 Dec 86

["Text" of statement by an official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Timothy Renton, UK minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs; dated 11 December]

[Text] Mr Timothy Renton, minister of state in British Foreign and Commonwealth Office visited New Delhi for official discussions on December 10-11, 1986. During his stay in New Delhi, Renton met with minister of state of external affairs, K. Natwar Singh and was received by the minister of external affairs, N.D. Tiwari.

2. [as received] Renton and members of his delegation had wide ranging discussions with Natwar Singh and officials of the Ministry of External Affairs which focussed on bilateral issues including a detailed discussion of anti Indian extremist and terrorist activities in the United Kingdom. Natwar Singh drew Renton's attention to India's serious concern at these activities which had in the recent past cast a shadow on Indo-U.K. relations. Renton expressed understanding of India's concerns and affirmed the desire and determination of the British Government to deal effectively with these activities. He recalled the firm commitment of her majesty's government to the territorial integrity and unity of India. The two sides strongly reiterated that the encouragement of violence and the stirring of racial and religious prejudices had no place in their democratic countries.

3. The two sides held extensive discussions on specific measures to deal with these problems including a proposed extradition treaty, exclusion or deportation of those who have been encouraging extremist or terrorist activities and the prosecution for offences involving such activities. The British side reviewed the present state of their laws regarding such offences and agreed to examine the possibilities of further strengthening their existing laws and procedures in order to deal more effectively with these problems.

4. The two sides discussed the provisions of a proposed extradition treaty extensively with a view to arriving at a mutually acceptable text. It was decided that further discussions will be held on this subject. The governments of India and the United Kingdon will continue to remain in close touch to take effective measures to deal with anti Indian extremist and terrorist activities in the United Kingdom. The talks between the two delegations were held in a cordial atmosphere. Natwar Singh accepted Renton's invitation to visit the United Kingdom to continue their talks at an early, mutually convenient date.

Gandhi Says Pakistan 'Negative' on Relations

BK120903 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 12 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister has said that Pakistan's response to India's initiative for improving relations has been negative. Addressing jawans [soldiers] in Leh today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said Pakistan has its own internal problems and in order to divert the attention of its people, Islamabad is trying to destabilize our country. It has set up camps in its territory to train the terrorists. We can take counter measures against it, but India does not want to violate international norms. He commended the jawans for frustrating the nefarious designs of Pakistan and hoped they would continue to do so. Mr Gandhi pointed out there has been some encroachment on the eastern sector and New Delhi is not in favor of aggravating the situation. We want to settle the issue through negotiations.

Earlier, on his arrival in Leh from Jammu, Mr Gandhi was given a rousing reception. People lined up on both sides of the route from the airport and cheered the prime minister as he passed through. At places, Mr Gandhi talked to the people to know their problems. He is scheduled to leave for Srinagar in the afternoon where he will address the graduates of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of agricultural sciences.

Warns Against Destabilization

BK111249 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister has warned against foreign-inspired attempts to destabilize the country. Addressing a public meeting at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the central government is making concerted efforts to wipe

out terrorism. The prime minister said the country should be prepared to make sacrifices for preserving its unity and integrity.

Referring to the development of the state, Mr Gandhi said he will try to sort out all pending issues between the center and the state government. He said the accord between the Congress-I and the National Conference led by Dr Farooq Abdullah will usher in a new era for speedy development in the state.

Welcoming Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Dr Farooq Abdullah cautioned the people against forces which are trying to create communal tensions to weaken the state and the country.

Curfew Reimposed in Mysore for Fourth Day

BK111658 Delhi Doordharshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, dusk to dawn curfew was reimposed in Mysore City for the fourth day today. Day curfew was relaxed for 3 hours in the afternoon today with an improvement in the situation. Except for one or two minor incidents, the situation in the city is under control.

1 Killed, 5 Injured in Tamil Nadu Bombing

BK111639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, one person was killed and five injured when a bomb exploded at the general post office complex in Madura this afternoon. The injured have been admitted to hospital. Explosive experts have been summoned from Sivakasi to investigate. Our Madura correspondent reports that the city police are taking all steps to trace the culprits. Police patrolling has been increased and pickets have been posted at vulnerable points. [passage omitted]

At Marandahalli in Dharmapuri District, a private bus was set on fire. An official spokesman in Madras said four persons have been arrested in this connection.

Meanwhile, the CPI general secretary, Mr Rajeshwara Rao, has appealed to the DMK leadership to give up their anti-Hindi agitation. In a statement, he said the country is facing a threat to its security and unity as a result of the machinations of the imperialists and forces of communalism, separatism, and chauvanism.

Mr Rajeshwara Rao said the anti-Hindi agitation is not only against the Constitution but also against the three language formula, which was agreed to by all the parties.

2 Punjab 'Terrorists' Captured in Delhi

BK111647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Two terrorists from Punjab wanted in connection with a series of heinous crimes have been arrested in New Delhi. According to a Delhi police release today, Roshanlal Bairagi, alias Gurudev Singh of Amritsar, was arrested after a chase by a beat constable in north Delhi last night. Avtar Singh, alias Kala, alias Jatika, of Ludhiana, was held after an encounter with the police in east Delhi this morning.

Bairagi, who had escaped from the Gurdaspur jail on 27 January this year, carried a reward of 1 lakh rupees on his head. Avtar Singh was carrying a reward of 50,000 rupees for his capture.

Pakistan 'Pawn' in U.S. Military Chess Game

BK111407 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Commentary entitled "Pakistan and U.S. Military Strategy," written by political commentator Raghunath Raina, read by annnouncer]

[Text] The U.S. efforts to arm Pakistan with the latest highly sophisticated weapons have created widespread alarm not only in India but in Pakistan and the U.S. itself. The Pakistani newspapers have underscored the fact that General Zia, by allowing his country sucked into the U.S. defense system, has created new dangers to Pakistan's integrity and made a mockery of its claims to nonalignment.

But even more trenchant criticism has come from the American press itself. For example, the wellknown commentator, Selig Harrison writing in *The New York Times* said: The Reagan administration thinks that Pakistan needs some form of early warning capability to combat Soviet-directed Afghan air force incursions into Pakistan. But Islamabad makes secret of the fact that it wants the Airborne Warning and Control System planes — AWACS — primarily to improve its military balance with India. Selig Harrison has, thus, only confirmed what India has been saying all along. Moreover, quoting American intelligence sources, he has also exposed the plans of the U.S. administration. Selig Harrison thinks publicly the Pentagon — the U.S. defense department — depicts a large scale Soviet threat to bolster its case for the AWACS sale, yet an unpublished defense intelligence study shows that Afghan Air Force border incursions, while frequent, have generally been limited to 2 to 6 miles in disputed border regions and have usually not involved bombing or strafing. Selig Harrison argues that there is such no case for supplying AWACS to Pakistan. He also reveals that the United States, for the first time since 1966, is monitoring Soviet missile tests with ground-based electronic intelligence facilities in Pakistan.

Not only that, Pakistan has apparently provided bases to U.S. aircraft. This has been revealed by another American journal *The Nation*. In a recent issue it said that after the American U-2 surveillance aircraft operating from the Peshawar base was shot down by the Soviet Union, Pakistan's military authorities pulled back from the part of their bargain in the face of international exposure. But, writes *The Nation*, since 1983, according to highly placed military sources in Pakistan, the government of General Ziaul Haq has allowed U.S. P-3 Orion planes to operate out of Pakistani air bases. The writer of the article (Lawrence Leipschetz) says that the Pakistani air force base at Mauripur near Karachi is the most commonly used. (Lipschultz) further says and

we quote: a State Department spokesman confirmed in a recent interview that P-3 aircraft were using Pakistani airfields with the approval of the government of Pakistan. What is even more important is that, according to *The Nation*, Pakistan has been given an important place in U.S. central command. *The Nation* writes: The staging of P-3 flights from Pakistani air bases is one dimension of much broader U.S. regional security vision. At its center is the emergence of the U.S. Central Command or CENTCOM, the sixth such command to come into operation since the second war, but the first new one in more than 35 years.

CENTCOM is now considered on an operational par with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the U.S. Pacific Command. Its area of responsibility includes 19 countries — 3 more than NATO in Southwest Asia, the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa. Its command area, however, is the entire Indian Ocean and the territory of the 44 littoral, hinterland states in its basin. It is evident that CENTCOM is now the most formidable U.S. military command designated to serve American military interests in this part of the world. And, as *The Nation* points out, in the CENTCOM framework, Pakistan, with its strategic location near the Gulf of Oman, has been designated a critical allied role. It has undertaken a heavy domestic military build up and its military forces are currently active in 22 countries in West Asia and Africa playing a crucial intelligence, training and internal security function parallel with U.S. strategic operations.

It is evident from this account that Pakistan has become a pawn in the American military chess game. Its credibility as a non-aligned nation has worn thin. But above all, as *The Nation* points out, the burgeoning U.S.-Pakistani military relationship could have grave domestic political implications.

Ziaul Haq on Afghanistan, Indian Exercises

BK121058 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Dec 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he is fully hopeful about the solution to the Afghanistan problem and that this problem can be solved. In an interview with the Asia editor of the London *Independent* in Islamabad, the president said if there is an accord on the agenda for the practical withdrawal of the Soviet forces resulting in a final settlement at the indirect talks on Afghanistan on 11 February next year, we will then be able to [words indistinct] in the 20th century. He said Pakistan's principled stand is for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces as soon as possible. Although Pakistan has not set any deadline for this it does not want it to take a long time. It should be done within a few weeks at the most. In reply to a question on the recent mission of Cordovez, the president said he has made sufficient progress.

On the situation along the Pakistan-India border, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said although the Indian military exercise near the borders is larger than usual, Pakistan believes that both countries can take steps to save their people from unnecessary concern and worry thus preventing further doubts and suspicions in India and in Pakistan. In reply to a question, the president said there is a convention between Indian and Pakistan to apprise each other in case of any movement of troops near the borders. We have not yet received any intimation from India about any major movement of Indian troops. As far as we know, Indian troops are making combined exercises near our border.

Junejo Speaks on Confidence in Armed Forces

BK111631 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reiterated Pakistan's desire for peaceful and good relations with all its neighbors, but at the same time it will defend its national independence and sovereignty with all means at its disposal. He was addressing the troops after visiting them in the exercise area near Gujranwala. The prime minister said 90 million people of the country have the fullest confidence in their brave Armed Forces. They have glorious traditions and history bears testimony to their bravery. He expressed the confidence that in any eventuality they would rewrite these glorious deeds and would not allow anybody to cast an evil eye on their sacred soil.

The prime minister also assured the Armed Forces that the government is fully alive to their professional needs which would be met despite resource constraints. The troops, he added, are being provided with the latest equipment and given the best of training. But, he said, they must know that the real power lies in their unwavering faith in Allah.

Earlier, the prime minister, accompanied by the vice chief of Army Staff, General Khalid Mahmud Arief; the corps commander; and other senior officers witnessed the crossing of water obstacles by the troops. He met the engineers who had built the bridges there and highly praised their skill. He also appreciated the successful completion of various stages of the exercises.

Later, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo visited the attack and tactical headquarters of the ongoing exercises and praised its (?staging) and performance.

Chinese Peoples Congress Delegation Arrives

BK111627 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] A six-member delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress led by its vice chairman, Mr Geng Biao, arrived in Islamabad this evening on 9-day visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation said friendly relations and cooperation between China and Pakistan are growing in strength. Politically, we have very good and friendly relations, and, economically, the two countries have been extending support to each others' development. The leader of the Chinese delegation said they are happy that in the last 8 years the economy of Pakistan has been developing at a very fast rate and the living standard of its people has been raised.

The delegation was received by the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Hamid Nasir Chatha.

Press Note Announces Curfew, Police Action

BK120958 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Dec 86

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration this morning says that a curfew has been imposed in Sohrab Goth area and it will be in force until notice of its relaxation. It says a combined force of law enforcement agencies and various organizations maintaining law and order have been deployed to protect law abiding citizens. Police and excise officials have searched suspicious places in the area for illegal arms and narcotics. A command force has been set up in the area to supervise all operations. The press note also says that all steps have been taken to face any situation. Announcements have been made frequently in the area through loudspeakers, appealing to the people to remain indoors and cooperate fully with the law enforcement agencies. The press note adds that it has been decided to storm the areas of Orangi in order to seize illegal explosive materials and to search suspected houses.

DAWN Comments on Gorbachev's Visit to India

BK111411 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Nov 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Mr Gorbachev's Visit to India"]

[Text] Mr Gorbachev has just completed a highly publicised and, by all accounts, successful four-day visit to India. The atmosphere throughout was warm and effusive reflecting the close ties that bind the two countries. Major agreements envisaging greater economic cooperation between them were also signed. But these facts apart, it is easy to be swept off one's feet by the visit and see it through a miasma of conspiracy and high-level intrigue. India and the Soviet Union have had close relations for the last thirty years. Visits between them are fairly regular. If Mr Brezhnev could journey to New Delhi in his dotage, it should

cause no surprise if Mr Gorbachev, a much younger man, should do so now. Let us not forget that the two countries in Asia with which the Soviet Union enjoys the closest relation are India and Vietnam. Not surprisingly, every major Kremlin address on foreign policy contains fulsome reference to India. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that this is not an unequal relationship.

While India and the Soviet Union have the same views on a broad range of issues, there are points of difference between them too. The Soviet Union may want to hold India in a tight economic embrace but India has seldom put all its eggs in one basket. Warm relations with the Soviet Union have never prevented it from cultivating the same relations with other countries, including the United States. In the statement issued at the end of Mr Gorbachev's visit, the Indian side fell well short of endorsing the Soviet proposal for an Asian and Pacific collective security conference. In this context it is worth remembering that the impetus behind the highpoints of Indo-Soviet collaboration — as for example during the Security Council debates on Kashmir in the sixties or during the 1971 war when India midwifed the birth of Bangladesh — has usually come from both sides equally.

The foregoing is not an apologia for Indian and Soviet foreign policy but merely an attempt to put the Gorbachev visit in some perspective. It is true that we are not on the best of terms with either India or the Soviet Union, both of whom, for this reason, can be expected to probe our soft spots and turn them to their advantage. But it needs to be emphasised that they can only exploit the sum of our weakness and folly, not our wisdom or courage. Any country let alone Pakistan suffering from internal discord and pursuing, at the same time, a high-risk foreign policy makes itself vulnerable on several counts. True, history furnishes countless examples of peaceful nations falling prey to unprovoked aggression. But examples also abound of a lack of wisdom and foresight inviting avoidable destruction.

There should be no doubt in any one's mind that if any single issue can encourage Indo-Soviet collusion (the principal nightmare haunting Pakistan) it is the Afghan crisis. Without in any way forsaking our principles we need to adopt a more flexible stance on the question of a time-frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the related issue of cessation of external interference in that country. There is no need to be unduly touchy about what is sometimes said on these issues from the other side. If substance of what is said is any guide, it must be pointed out that Mr Gorbachev's remarks on Afghanistan, and also on the related question of American arms aid to Pakistan, were remarkably moderate and conciliatory. This provides grounds for hope that with sufficient earnestness and goodwill a political solution to the Afghan crisis can be found. It is a policy that should receive the unqualified backing of the people of the country.

Friday Prayer Leader Views Lebanon, Montazeri

LD121309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Dec 86

[Text] The Friday prayers' religious-political ceremonies were observed in the venues of divine adoration and selflessness throughout the country in the presence of the Islamic nation of Hezbollahis. In Tehran, too, the God-fearing people held their Friday prayers at Tehran University and surrounding thoroughfares under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin (Emami-Kashani).

In his prayer sermon, Terhan's ad interim Friday imam referred to recent events in Lebanon and the bloody clashes among Muslim groups. He said: The time has now come for the Muslims and deprived, oppressed people of the world to be vigilant. They should be increasingly vigilant because world arrogance, by using various tricks, stratagems, and deceptions, is striving to sow discord and divisions among these people so that it can continue its plunder and exploitation.

Expressing gratitude to the Sunni and Shi'ite ulema, to the Hezbollahis and Amal Movement in Lebanon, and to the Palestinian groups residing in Lebanon as well as appreciation for the efforts by responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in establishing a cease-fire between the warring groups, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin (Emami-Kashani) expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran's cease-fire plan would endure. Emphasizing the Islamic Republic of Iran's goodwill, he said: All of the efforts by our officials are devoted to turning the guns of our Muslim brothers in Lebanon and Palestine toward their own enemy — Israel!

Continuing his sermon, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam referred to the political hullabaloo in the United States that is besetting that country's leaders. He stated: All this glory enjoyed today by our country, our people, and the world Muslims is because of the vigilance of the leader of the revolution, and it is here that the role played by the rule of the supreme jurisconsult [Velayat-e Faqih] becomes clear in the various aspects of Islamic society. By following the lead of Islamic law, we neither covet the land of any country nor do we want their problems; if today we are locked in a war against the Iraqi regime, it is because we are defending ourselves against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's onslaught and aggression.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin (Emami-Kashani), emphasizing the knowledge of piety of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, said: His grace is one of the illustrious personalities whose various canonical and political attributes, whose political sagacity are well-known to learned scholars and religious seminarians, who know that no one could influence him intellectually; from this standpoint, his grace shall always remain unstained [reference to Mehdi Hashemi].

Musavi, USSR's Katushev View Meeting Results

LD111658 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11, IRNA — The Soviet Union regards the progress of the Iran-Soviet joint commission for economic relations as a prelude for strengthening of ties between the two countries, said visiting Soviet official Konstantin Katushev in his meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday. Katushev, the chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, briefed the premier on "progress" of talks on the joint commission. Katushev said that his country attaches great importance to the commission.

In reply Premier Musavi mentioned the anti-imperialist stance of the two neighbouring countries and described the grounds for expansion of bilateral relations as "favorable". He expressed satisfaction with the results achieved in the joint commission.

Musavi recalling the Soviet suppression on the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler's wide-scale aggression on the USSR, said that the 'little Hitler' (Saddam Husayn) should likewise be punished for initiating a war against the Islamic Revolution.

On Soviet forces in Afghanistan, Musavi said that their presence in Afghanistan has offended the Iranian nation and all Muslim peoples throughout the globe. He cautioned that the longer they stayed, the more the U.S. will exploit the issue to advance its hegemony in the region.

Musavi emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for an immediate withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the formation of an anti-imperialist and popular government in that Muslim country.

The Soviet official arrived here on Dec 8, at the head of a delegation.

Economic Talks End; Protocol Signed

LD111848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] The 3-day talks held at the 10th session of the Permanent Commission for Joint Economic Cooperation ended in Tehran this afternoon with the signing of a new protocol on economic cooperation between Iran and the USSR.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent, this protocol sets out various areas in trade, banking relations, and cooperation between the two countries in respect of transportation, a steel mill, power stations, fisheries, manufacturing industries, housing construction, and industrial and technological cooperation.

The protocol on joint Iranian-USSR economic cooperation was signed by Minister of Economy and Finance Mohammad Javad Iravani,representing our country, and by Konstantin Katushev, representing his country. The protocol stipulates that high-level delegations representing the two countries will meet every 6 months and review the understandings reached and the methods by which these will be carried out.

The two countries also compiled a work plan and measures that should be carried out by the next session and they agreed that the 11th session of the Permanent Commission for Joint Economic Cooperation should meet at the level of ministers in Moscow next year.

According to the Central News Unit correspondent, when signing the documents on economic cooperation between the two countries, Mr Iravani, head of the Iranian delegation at the talks held at the permanent commission for joint Iranian-USSR economic cooperation, referred to the efforts made by the delegations of the two countries for a successful conclusion of this session. He expressed thanks for the positive spirit adopted by the head of the Soviet economic delegation and emphasized the good-neighborly relations and expansion in the practical implementation of economic cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

He stated: We consider the holding of the 10th session of the joint economic commission as tantamount to reviving the commission for cooperation between the two countries, and we believe that the implementation of the accords arrived at during this session will speed up the course of the expansion of relations between the two countries. Mr Iravani expressed the hope that next year's session of this commission will further expand the prospects of joint economic relations.

According to the same report, the head of the Soviet economic delegation, when signing the documents relating to economic cooperation between the two countries, stated: The chief purpose of our work at this session was to review the present state of Iranian-USSR economic cooperation. He added: We studied all those issues that were on the agenda of Iranian-USSR joint economic cooperation and we reached accords accepted by both parties in all respects.

At the talks the expansion of relations between the two countries in accordance with international norms and the principle of mutual respect as well as equality and nonintervention in each other's affairs and mutual interests were considered and we arrived at positive results through the efforts we made. He added: This session has helped us to become familiar with each others' stances on many issues. We took some very positive steps forward and prepared a good program of cooperation between the two countries, the implementation of which will demonstrate more clearly the results of this session's work.

Statement Condemns Palestinians' 'Massacre'

LD111842 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry Thursday strongly condemned the recent massacre of defenseless Palestinian Muslims by the regime occupying Palestine and described the latest terrorist acts of the Zionist regime as best evidence of the false claim of the global arrogance that it opposes terrorism.

A statement released by the Foreign Ministry, said that the Palestinian people's mass uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip has put the Al-Quds occupying regime in a jeopardy.

At a time when heads of reactionary states in the region are racing to reconcile with and open the gates of their Arab and Islamic land to the Zionists and their Western supporters, the mass uprising in the West Bank is a decisive response to these compromising leaders and detractors of Palestinian cause, the statement said.

Elsewhere, the statement said that opening fire on Palestinian women and children as well as massacring innocent people defending their just rights single-handedly, have provoked such a disaster for the Zionist entity that not even the great Satan (U.S.) dare to veto a UN Security Council resolution on deploring Israel's barbaric acts.

The defenseless victims of the oppressed Palestinian nation bravely resisting the Zionist criminals, who are armed to their teeth, are proofs exposing the imperialist powers' hypocrisy of being opposed to terrorism, the statement said.

The statement, announcing the Islamic Republic's condemnation of the savage crime against Palestinian Muslims, pledged Iran's full support for the oppressed Palestinian people in their just fight against the Zionist regime.

It also called on Muslim, Arab, and non-aligned countries to prevent such crimes and stage an all-out struggle against the regime occupying Palestine.

Former President on Impact of U.S. Contacts

PM101451 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 1-7 Dec 86 pp 26-31

[Unattributed interview with former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: You have played a role in exposing the Iranian-U.S. rapprochement, which is the topic of the hour. The first thing that occurs to me is to try to find out the background and elements of this rapprochement and whether it is new or old....

Answer: This rapprochement is not new. But there is a question I wish to ask before I answer your question: Why is the U.S.-Iranian contact now taking the form of a scandal, and why is it engulfed in such clamor? I suggest that it is because the Iranian revolution brought about a change in this world, because it succeeded in rejecting rapprochement with either superpower, and because it gave strength and momentum to the concept of independence. But the Americans want to prove now that nothing has changed, that things continue to be as they were before the revolution, and that when the need arises even Khomeyni goes to them asking for assistance. Thus, the Americans want to convince the Third World, especially the Islamic countries, that there is no alternative to alignment with the United States or the Soviet Union — which means dealying the great change in our world. This is the basis of all that has happened and is happening. [passage omitted]

In Your Country, Lebanon

Question: You refer to the aid, exposed by U.S. intelligence, that has supposedly been offered to the Iranian opposition, exlcuding you.

Answer: This aid has been offered to Iranians and to others also. It has included some people in your country, Lebanon. When Khomeyni asks Reagan to replace Saddam, that request in itself is a victory for Reaganism. Therefore, I say that since the inception of the Iranian revolution, the United States has chosen this tactic to soil us. [passage omitted]

I say again that a U.S.-Iranian contact is not new. When I was in power, Beheshti — and his party, which included Hashemi-Rafsanjani and others among its leaders — was in contact with the Americans. At the same time, the Americans contacted some of my advisers to establish relations with me. I rejected their endeavors and wrote to my adviser in Europe who conveyed the American wish to me that relations must, first be between two states and not a state and an individual and that, second, the Americans wanted to tarnish my reputation so as to expose me. We must fight their endeavors.

Question: Have they exposed all those dealing with them?

Answer: Yes, they have. You may read what *The Washington Post* has published. They have exposed Madani, Amini, Reza Pahlavi, and Rafsanjani. They have exposed all those who got money from the CIA.

Question: Did Ayatollah Rafsanjani meet U.S. envoy McFarlane when the latter visited Tehran?

Answer: It is not important whether he did nor did not meet McFarlane. What is important is that Rafsanjani has relations with them. They staged their coup against me because they had gotten an American pledge that the United States would supply them with weapons to continue the war. I revealed this as soon as I left Iran. Events have proved me right. Since then, they have been supplying Iran with weapons so that it can continue the war for as long as possible, not so that it can win.

Our Fundamentalism and the West's Fundamentalism

Question: Could a U.S.-Iranian rapprochement not contribute to ending the Iraq-Iran war?

Answer: The United States wants this war to continue. So how could it work to end it? There is only one condition that could encourage it to end the war, namely when it becomes certain that its schemes are about to crystallize. The Americans have reached a four-point agreement with Rafsanjani. If this agreement crystallizes, it will constitute a major victory for Reagan. In any case, Reagan himself declared this when he spoke of a "big risk for a big benefit." [passage omitted]

But this is just a political game, no more and no less. It is a game that ignores the facts and that is why it has been destined to fail. It is true that this game has succeeded in achieving one of its objectives, namely to place OPEC under U.S. control. But the other objectives — replacing Saddam Husayn, establishing an Iranian regime close to the United States, and controlling the terrorist groups — have not yet been achieved. Who can guarantee that the Americans will not use the terrorists against us? They are capable of making a 180-degree turn in their policy. However, the fact is that there are agreements between Reagan's United States and Khomeyni's Iran. [passage omitted]

Question: Was Imam Khomeyni unaware of the agreement you are talking about?

Answer: It is evident that he was. He has said that the CIA agents were carrying forged passports and that they were taken to a hotel, and so forth. The first contradiction is that they did not announce the Americans' visit until the truth was revealed. They could have summoned the journalists as soon as the Americans arrived and told them: We present to you Mr Reagan's aide who has come with a forged passport. Had they done so, they would have been the ones to reveal the truth and the White House would have turned into a black house. But to wait until the issue was exposed internationally, to ignore the deputies' questions in the parliament, and to talk as they are trying to talk is a contradiction. Another contradiction is: What weapons have they been fighting with? I have been saying that the Americans have been supplying weapons and the Americans have been denying it. This time the Americans have been compelled to say: Yes, it is true that we have been supplying weapons for 6 years. So an agreement has existed between Iran and the United States. But the Iranians do not have the political ethics that Reagan, despite all his weakness, possesses. He has shouldered his responsibility, which is something that Khomeyni has not dared to do. [passage omitted]

Two Plans of the Khomeyni Regime

Question: Can we link the Syrian-Saudi-Iranian contacts with the U.S.-Iranian rapprochement in order to visualize a solution to the Iraq-Iran war?

Answer: We must make a distinction between two plans for which Khomeyni's regime is working: one with the Soviet Union and Syria, and the other with the United States and Saudi Arabia. Some points in the two plans are similar. However, the first underlines a complete change in the Iraqi regime's mechanism and its replacement by a mechanism close to Syria. As for the second plan. i.e. the U.S. plan, it is only interested in replacing the head while maintaining the apparatus. The price of the first plan, i.e. the Soviet one, is concessions in oil from the north [of Iran] and a position of non-hostility to the Soviets in Afghanistan. This plan has been called the "Red Belt" because if achieved, it will assure the Soviets of influence extending from Afghanistan through Iraq and Syria to the Mediterranean. The Army, the people, and some leaders such as Montazeri, oppose this plan. Montazeri is trying to discern his own future in these plans, all of which ignore him. However, the Soviet plan has in fact been no more than a screen for the U.S. plan and has been intended to camouflage the progress achieved by the U.S. plan, which was supposed to be implemented in the wake of the Al-Faw victory. After that victory it was said that the plan had crystallized and that Saddam was about to depart and be replaced by Na'im Haddad, but that the Syrians obstructed it. I have gathered this information from the Iranian side. It was later said that the Soviet plan had come so close to succeeding that the Iranian foreign minister told those close to him 2 months ago that the Soviets had promised to remove Saddam within 6 months, i.e. by the end of the year the Iranians were calling the year one of victory. What is important in all this is that the Iranians have realized that military victory is impossible. This is why they are seeking a political victory through the Soviets or the Americans. The difference is that the Soviets and the Syrians do not possess

the means to achieve their plan. But if the Americans manage to achieve their plan, they will have to satisfy the Soviets either with oil from the north or with various promises at Iran's expense.

Question: The Iranians constantly say that the Gulf states want to end the war at any price....

Answer: I do not agree with that analysis.

Question: ...Even if the price is the replacement of the Iraqi president. Why?

Answer: This [not further specified] proves that they will not agree to end the war at any price. If a new regime compatible with their policy is set up in Iraq, then they will agree to the ending of the war. But peace does not mean giving the area's keys to Reagan. We want peace with independence, not peace with complete capitulation to the United States. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, why did this war start? What interest did Saddam have in attacking Iran? I see no interest. It was a mistake on Saddam's part. He imagined that the Iranian Army was weak. Bakhtiar and others misled Saddam by telling him that there would be no resistance, that the Iranians would join the Iraqis and that he would become the area's strong man in a matter of days. All this is in the realm of the imaginary, not the real. It is exactly what Reagan and Rafsanjani imagined they could accomplish. But the Americans did have an interest in the outbreak of this war. Was that interest the hostages' lives? Not at all. They wanted to break the tide of revolution in the area. [passage omitted]

There Will be no Succession

Question: Does the U.S.-Iranian rapprochement reflect directly on what has become known as the "succession war" in Iran?

Answer: There will be no succession. I have said this repeatedly and I am reaffirming it now. This regime is doomed to die and Khomeyni himself has signed the sentence. This regime established a constitutional law and then turned against the first president elected under that law. It replaced that president and when the replacement was assassinated a third president was brought in, but Khomeyni prevented him from selecting his prime minister. On the other hand, Khomeyni has appointed his own successor, thus violating the constitutional law. We find this practice of naming successors only among monarchs. Moreover, Khomeyni attacked his successor in his latest speech, describing him as a "murderer" and a "terrorist," and he has arrested 150 of that successor's supporters. How can the ruler, who is supposed to embody religion and the spirit of faith, condone close associates whom he describes as murderers, terrorists, and thieves? So much for Montazeri.

On the other hand, do you think Khomeyni would ask for Reagan's aid if he believed that his regime was strong? The mere fact that they have requested Reagan's aid proves that they are not confident of their future. The people will not replace one dictatorship by a more reactionary and bloodier dictatorship. They fought the revolution to win democracy and they will have that democracy. Everything indicates that we have come close to it. It is true that the Iraq-Iran war has delayed the democracy plan, but it has not changed it at all. A nation of 50 million people cannot be ruled in the manner in which Khomeyni is currently ruling them under wartime conditions.

When Khomeyni personally denounces his successor and when Rafsanjani, the regime's "number two" man, is exposed in the manner in which he has been exposed by the U.S. media, who is going to succeed Khomeyni? Nobody. [passage omitted]

Question: How do you interpret the release of the Hashemi brothers within the framework of this struggle for power?

Answer: They are strong in the Esfahan area. Everything is under their control. It is said that to see Hashemi, one has to go through seven offices and an army of guards, as if Hashemi were a king. In that area he acts as if he owned everything.

Restlessness in the Army

Question: But it is said that the Hashemi brothers have been released for reasons connected with the balance of power within the current regime?

Answer: That is true. They were released in the wake of the exposure of the contact with the Americans. They were released because the authorities lacked the power to keep them in jail. The situation is confused at present. What Khomeyni said has convinced nobody. Rafsanjani has become an agent of the United States and Montazeri has been exposed because he depends on these people of ill repute (the Hashemi brothers). To survive, they have to unite their forces, especially since the Army has become restless with the arrest of Colonel Katebi, the number two officer in the Second Bureau, and 199 other officers because they Army took a position on the Reagan-Rafsanjani agreement. Under that agreement the Revolutionary Guards would become the country's main armed force — which means the dissolution of the Army. That is why the Army protested and showed its displeasure. The problem is obvious. There cannot be two armies. The main army at present is the Revolutionary Guards Corps. This is why the Americans have clearly chosen Mohsen Reza'i. I received news of the arrests a week ago but did not recieve the explanation until yesterday. [passage omitted]

Question: Excluding the leaders, have the Revolutionary Guards supported the agreement with the United States?

[Answer] No. There is total confusion on the outside and meetings are being held to discuss the agreement and what has happened with Montazeri. There is an important point that I have experienced closely and that we must realize. Why did the shah depart? He departed because he lost esteem in the Army and was no longer a respected commander. [passage omitted]

The Army is proud and its commander must be an upright and courageous man. Who thought that Khomeyni would contact Reagan to overthrow Saddam? Nobody thought so because it was said to be a war of faith. Now everyone realizes that it is a war for Reagan, to bring him into Iran. Everything has changed at the level of convictions. There is no longer a respected military commander. This is what scares the regime and what made Khomeyni say 2 weeks ago that the regime is stable thanks to the Armed Forces. This means that he has returned completley to

what the shah used to say. Previously, Khomeyni considered Islam the base of this regime's stability. This proves that a change has occurred.

Question: When Khomeyni says "armed forces," does he mean the Guards or the Army?

Answer: Outwardly, he means both. But to him the Revolutionary Guards are the Armed Forces.

Question: In your opinion, does the future belong to the Revolutionary Guards or to the Army?

Answer: To neither the Revolutionary Guards nor the Army. The future belongs to democracy. We are paying dearly for this democracy, but the outcome will certainly be in its interest. This is because our awareness has reached a level that accepts no dictatorship. Let me offer you a theoretical explanation of my concept. For dictatorship to prevail and remain stable for a period of time, the rulers' awareness level has to be higher than that of the ruled. If the inverse situation exists, it becomes impossible for a regime to remain stable. In the case of the Soviet dictatorship, for example, the stability will continue until the people's awareness level rises above that of the rulers. In Iran, the clergy's awareness level is lower than that of the people. This is why this regime cannot survive. This applies to other peoples and countries. I repeat that our people have attained an awareness level that rejects dictatorship because it is a legacy of the past.

The Hashemi Brothers

Question: Is the release of the Hashemi brothers connected with their role at the head of the underground Hadafi organization?

Answer: The Hashemi brothers are to blame for numerous things, including their seizure of SAVAK's files on the clergymen, the accusation that they tried to assassinate Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and others by introducing terrorists into these officials' headquarters, their kidnapping of the Syrian charge d'affaires, and their attempt to sneak weapons into Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season to sabotage the Iranian-Saudi-U.S. rapprochement. There are other accusations which prove that the Hashemi brothers have a network for carrying out such acts. It is also said that Hashemi's men go to the battlefront where they collect weapons and money from the dead and then spend the money and hide the weapons. All this proves that they have a network that operates not only in Iran but throughout the area. The Hashemi brothers are the ones who set up the Lebanese organization loyal to Iran. It is said that they have nearly 1,500 men, not all of whom have been arrested. Even though Reshahri (the security minister) has urged them to turn themselves in, they have not responded and have continued to be free and influential. They are the ones who exposed the McFarlane issue to the press in Lebanon.

Question: So their arrest at the outset was, to a degree, in implementation of the U.S.-Iranian agreement?

Answer: Of course, Rafsanjani had planned to bring these organizations under his control. He began by approving the budget allocated for assisting the revolutionary movements ($500 million). This budget is subject to the prime minister's approval, i.e. it is under Rafsanjani's control. Rafsanjani then began to gather documents in preparation for his attack on those who supervise these organizations in Iran. When he completed his plan, he submitted a report to Khomyeni and got his approval to move. However, Rafsanjani's movement had two objectives: first, to gain control over the networks launched from Iran and Lebanon and operating in all parts of the world; and, second, to deny Montazeri all power. In fact, Montazeri now has no power whatsoever. Thus, Rafsanjani continued to advance until he was exposed. What he and Reagan disregarded is the strength of the truth, the revelation of which has changed the balances of power within the regime. To the Revolutionary Guards and to the people, Montazeri seems to have been done an injustice and this has compelled the other party to back down and reassess the situation. Even Hashemi's position has improved because the issue concerns contacts with the United States. This does not mean that Hashemi is innocent of the accusations made against him. But Rafsanjani is not the one who can task him with them. Arrivals from Iran have told me that when Reshahri arrested Hashemi, Montazeri summoned Reshahri and asked him: What is going on? Reshahri answered that it was Khomeyni's order. Montazeri said: How could the imam issue an order without your telling him anything? What did you tell him? Reshahri answered: We told him that Hashemi was engaged in "devilry" (sedition). At this point, Montazeri asked: And have you told him about his son's "devilry"? This is very significant because Montazeri openly accuses Ahmad Khomeyni of plotting the "secret agreement." In doing so he accuses Khomeyni himself. I have also been told of another incident in which Khomeyni one day criticized Montazeri and accused his office of hatching plots. Montazeri responded: It is not my office that is hatching plots but all those now gathered here — implying that the real plot was the one being hatched by some officials with the United States. To Montazeri, Hashemi was arrested not because he had committed acts of murder, theft, and terrorism but because he exposed the Iranian-U.S. agreement.

Syria and Lebanon

Question: Where does Syria stand with respect to all this, especially with respect to the Iranian-U.S. agreement?

Answer: I believe that they are very embarrassed and do not know what to do. They are very angry now that they have discovered that Rafsanjani has been toying with everybody — with them, the Americans, the Saudis, and the Kuwaitis. In any case, the Syrians have participated in exposing the agreement through the magazine *Al-Shira'*. The situation is presently frozen. If my analysis is correct, the Syrians may take the opportunity to end the Hizballah influence in Lebanon and to control it completely. It seems to me that this is very likely. At another level, the Syrians could change their position on the Iraq-Iran war now that they have discovered that there is a plan to set up a new Iraqi regime sympathetic to the West. Any change of this kind in Iraq will not be in the Syrians' interest.

Question: What is your assessment of the experiment in exporting revolution as demonstrated in Lebanon?

Answer: It is not exporting revolution but ridiculing revolution. A revolution reduced to holding hostages and other such activi-

ties is a major loss to the Shi'ites in Lebanon and to the entire Lebanese people. The result is this tragic situation in which Lebanon currently lives. [passage omitted]

Question: Does this mean that you see Iran as having no interests in Lebanon?

Answer: Yes. The Iranian regime is an isolated regime that has made terrorism its foreign policy. What is Iran's foreign policy? It is terrorism. How does Iran solve its problems with the Europeans? By terrorist operations. That is why it has a major interest in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Islamic Republic

Question: There is talk of an "Islamic republic" in Lebanon. In your opinion, is this idea achievable?

Answer: It is not only unachievable, but the Lebanese themselves do not want it. People are being misled. What republic? Is there an Islamic republic in Iran? If there is, then it is either in abeyance or suspended. Did the people know that McFarlane was in Iran? Where is the republic? All this is ridiculous. Did the Iraqi people know that Saddam was going to attack Iran? The important thing is: How can something which does not exist be expected to appear among us? They talk about Islam in Iran: Where is their Islam? Why am I here if there is Islam? I have spent all my life studying Islam and published 40 books about Islam. I was the first elected official and I was the one whom Khomeyni himself called the theoretician of Islam. How can a person like me be a virtual prisoner here in France if an Islamic regime exists there?

If the Imam Dies

Question: Is the regime in Iran through?

Answer: It ended sometime ago. Every regime in this world needs legitimacy. The Iranian regime's legitimacy comes from the faith. Islam is the law. Khomeyni himself said here in Paris that the Islamic government is a government of law. The regime ended on the day it sentenced people to death without trial. It no longer had legitimacy. So there is an organized force in control but there is no government in Iran. Do you want a more eloquent example than what has happened with the Americans? They concealed the truth until it was exposed. Who revealed it? A front within the regime. Why? Because it is a regime in which every individual carries out his foreign policy as he wishes. Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, Montazeri, Ahmad Khomeyni, and Khomeyni himself have each had their foreign policy and their own foreign minister. How can a regime survive as a regime when it has five or six foreign ministers? Ahmad Khomeyni carries out his foreign policy through Sadeq Tabataba'i, his brother-in-law. Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and Montazeri have their people who are entrusted with their foreign policy.

Question: What will happen if the imam dies?

Answer: The situation is very vague and nobody knows who will succeed whom. Montazeri? In his present situation and since they entered and searched his house, he can no longer make decisions on anything. What is important is to understand that they have been unable to convince the people that their dictatorship is better than the shah's dictatorship. The others are branded. *The Washington Post* exposed Reza Pahlavi and said that he was a toy in the hands of U.S. intelligence. A CIA agent cannot be shah of Iran. I do not think that the Americans themselves will try to impose him. How could they justify it? So there is a dilemma for those close to the previous or present dictatorships. A solution must therefore be sought among the people's ranks. A search must be made for an axis capable of offering a new form of government and of providing a way out of the crisis. As for seeking a solution within the Khomeyni regime, Khomeyni himself has been fortunate in being able to convince everybody that, while he lives, there is no solution to the crisis within this regime — as evidenced by the fact that Khomeyni himself has denounced his successor. Can we imagine Iran without government? Perhaps, perhaps. We will then become like Lebanon — and that is in nobody's interest.

I Will Return Triumphant

Question: Will Abolhasan Bani-Sadr remain in exile?

Answer: Of course not. I have always said that I will return triumphant. As you can see, the analysis I offered from the outset has been correct. Loyalty to the truth continues to be profitable. There is an important I will not exchange for anything else, namely being the first person in Iran's history to be elected by a revolution. If I betray that, then it means that the people were not qualified to choose. That is why I must endure all the difficulties here and must remain loyal to the revolution's principles. That is what I am doing. The revolution is a mighty step toward liberation and toward opening new horizons for man. If this is true, then I must return, I will return; there is no doubt. [passage omitted]

Commerce Minister Speaks Further on Economy

PM101051 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Dec 86 p 18

[Second part of *Keyhan* exclusive interview with Commerce and Trade Minister 'Abedi Ja'fari; date and place not given]

[Text]['Abedi Ja'fari] The government has taken measures in the field of domestic trade to counter the conditions imposed by foreigners and strengthened by their internal elements. The most important measures taken are these: Within the goals of the new economic program it is stressed that there should be no basic changes with regard to providing essential items for the people. Rather, we should have limitations for the provision of those goods that are not essential.

For example, our annual sugar consumption was some 1,250 tons. Of course this was when it was rationed. In the new economic program, outside of family consumption, sugar is not recognized as an essential item. So our new policy is to keep the ration level for families stable, but to limit the use of sugar outside the family unit — for example in industry. This policy has been implemented and in total our sugar consumption in 1986, continuing into 1987, has been reduced to 1 million tons. The decrease in rationing was done so as to cause the least amount of damage to employment in guilds and industry.

Similar measures were taken for other items such as edible oil and so on. In some cases where the rationing was thought to be too little for families, the government has always tried to raise the levels. The effect that the changes and the new economic program have had on the domestic market is that they have brought some pressure on our people. Officials and those involved are aware of this pressure and are thinking of ways to alleviate it. Of course it must be said that if the government had not entered the scene with all its might, under the present conditions the pressure on the people would have been far greater. The fact that the government got involved has helped to minimize this pressure on the public. So the internal distribution system has been dealt with within the framework of services. With regard to limitations on imports and internal production, the government has used mechanisms in the domestic distribution system so the consumer can benefit from all that is available.

As far as essential items are concerned, rationing and the coupon system will continue the way it is now. At least this way our oppressed and poor people can be sure that the ration that has been put aside for them will continue to be provided. One of the main problems with the present system of distribution is the fact that the private sector continues to have a large cash flow on its hands. Collecting this excess cash flow has not been totally completed. In order to keep this high cash flow going, the private sector is still trading in some items needed by the public and it is through this method that this sector continues to place great pressure on the consumers.

[Keyhan] What effect has the government's new economic policy had on domestic trade within the private sector? Under the present conditions, when we are facing severe shortages, resources have to be allocated carefully and this calls for further government involvement as a responsible source in charge of safeguarding the people's interests. At this time it seems that the role of the private sector in the field of domestic trade has to be decreased, but figures show that it is very high. How do you feel about this?

['Abedi Ja'fari] The system of internal distribution has very basic and fundamental problems that have to be corrected. We also have to use the present circumstances to the utmost in order to correct these problems. On the other hand the system has inherited some problems which also exist in other economic sectors.

For example, the shortage of imported and locally-produced goods is one of the problems that is passed on to us from other sectors. Then, the issues of the distribution sector are fundamental ones that have to be corrected. Of course the government is not planning in general to nationalize the domestic trade market. What the government sees for internal commerce is that cooperatives and private businesses should also have a hand in the domestic market.

But what the government is insisting on is that first of all priority be given to production rather than to middlemen or any type of salesmanship. This means that the backbone of our internal commercial sector has to be made up of small producers, the way it was in the Islamic market system before the onslaught of Western culture and propaganda in Iran. The other point that the government is insisting on is supervision of the actions of the cooperatives and the private sector to ensure that the consumer gets what he needs. If God is willing, we should be able to use the present conditions to put these policies into action and to have the government supervising the distribution, done by various guilds in such a way that the consumer suffer only the minimum amount of damage.

[Keyhan] You said one of the basic plans of the new economic program is to provide essentials for the people. It seems, however, that the government has clearly decreased some of its support within the new economic package. Some of these things that involve the Ministry of Commerce include the distribution of lighting material, rice, and so on. Do you not think there is a contradiction between "providing the essentials" and the decrease in "support policies?"

['Abedi Ja'fari] With regard to the government's policy of supporting the downtrodden masses, the aim is not to lessen this support. What has been thought of in this program and implemented in several sessions is that the best and simplest way for the country's total earnings to be placed at the disposal of the people is through providing the basic essential items that are needed by the majority of the people. It must be said that this is placed at their disposal like booty because it is theirs to begin with.

The government is also insisting on providing these goods at the proper time. For example there has been no change in the government's support system for bread, tea, sugar, cooking oil, rice, and other essentials. The prices for these items will continue to be what they have been so far and the rations will also continue the same way.

Of course, it is possible that there may be some problems caused by world aggression and its internal lackeys with regard to the distribution of some items for a short period of time. But these problems do not mean that the government will cease its support with regard to these goods. This is absolutely not the case. In fact, the government feels a responsibility to stress its support both in promises and in action under the present conditions.

[Keyhan] Would you please give some details on the extent of guarantees and also on the conditions that are considered in our foreign purchases?

['Abedi Ja'fari] There are two points that have been considered in this matter. One is that the commercial values governing the world are not within our Islamic framework. This means that we have to conduct our affairs in an international trade community not governed by Islamic values. Of course there are other values, such as the prompt delivery of goods, but in the sense that you are talking about it must be said that those values absolutely do not exist in international relations.

The second point is that the purchases made by the provision and distribution centers of the Ministry of Commerce are based on the laws passed by the Revolution Council dealing with the formation of these centers. We must honestly say that these are the best purchases of the Islamic Republic because these centers have the latest and most complete information and figures on world markets as well as prices in various countries. Purchases

are made using this information. Recently the Ministry of Commerce managed to computerize the whole lot. Today the particulars of all importers are stored in the computer with a special code and number, the amount of trade accomplished so far, the kind of goods bought, and so on. The centers' computer also has all the particulars of the seller, his background, and the kind of goods sold to Iran. There are also records of all items, with all their particular backgrounds, prices, quality, and place of purchase.

Therefore, the actions taken by the provision and distribution centers with regard to foreign purchases are at their best in terms of technical facilities and expert manpower and in terms of their dedication and allocation of power in various areas. We must stress strongly that this investment is an expensive one for the regime and for the implementation of Article 44 of the Constitution. Yet there are still some problems.

The first problem is that these centers carry out a small percentage of the purchases made by the Islamic Republic. There are many different organs that do the buying in the Islamic Republic and their amount of purchases is many times higher than that made by these centers.

The second point is that some of these other purchases that are made by various groups or individuals do not legally have to go through these centers or have their prices controlled. This means that legally they are exempt from having their prices controlled by these centers, whose main task is price control. This occurs when the public places all the blame on the Ministry of Commerce when any item has the slightest problem.

So there has to be a classification so that if, God forbid, there is a problem with regard to a foreign purchase, we can find out where the goods were bought, who bought them, and if the goods were priced by the centers of provision and distribution.

Apart from this, the purchases made by these centers, the private sector, and the government, which deals through the centers, can all be divided into various segments.

One group includes the things bought using the experience of the centers. Another group includes those purchases made when the centers were first established. Unfortunately, today we see that all these things are mixed up. For me, as the responsible person in the Ministry of Commerce, it is amazing to see that purchases made in 1980 and 1981, which had some problems, are mentioned without quoting dates. People figure that the government bought these items through the Ministry of Commerce and act as if the government bought these things this year or last year. This is the first problem.

The second problem is that I must admit honestly that people think of some purchases made by the private sector as having been made by government centers. There were some obvious cases of this misunderstanding and when we followed them up we saw that the purchases were not made by the Ministry of Commerce at all. In this confusion there are some who want to abuse the situation and defame the government and the experienced Muslim brothers who are today working in the Ministry of Commerce with all its facilities.

Some of the issues that were mentioned with regard to some purchases were followed up. For example, there is the case of the one issue raised in the Majlis by the Commission in charge of Article 90 [of the Constitution]. An answer has been prepared for the question raised and it will be presented to the Majlis. But the question was baseless. This means that the report given to the Majlis with regard to purchases, the quality of our management, and our buying procedures were all contrary to truth and reality.

The Ministry of Commerce itself, because it has a system of control over the purchases it makes, takes certain actions so that deals do not have to face problems. One of our tasks is to control the centers of provision and distribution themselves. But even this is not enough because the office of the deputy minister of trade and commerce in charge of purchases gives all purchases one final check. Even this is not enough. We have created offices in the major marketing centers of the Islamic Republic and their task is to control local prices. These offices have the latest information on purchases and they compare these with the conditions of sale put forward by our own centers of distribution and place all their information at the disposal of our centers.

80th OPEC Session Viewed; Termed 'Thorny'

NC111115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Commentary by the Research Group of the Central News Unit, entitled: "OPEC's Efforts To Raise Oil Prices"]

[Excerpts] The 13 OPEC oil ministers will hold their fourth meeting of the year today in the wake of the great oil price reduction crisis. This will be the 80th official session of the organization in Geneva. The agenda is topped by the oil price crisis and includes establishing new prices, production ceilings, and quotas for individual members. [passage omitted]

Since the 79th session, a price of $18 per barrel has been suggested and is being pursued by the new Saudi oil minister, who replaces Zaki Yamani. The OPEC Price Committee stressed at its session in Quito the need to attain a price of $18 per barrel by adopting a new means of operating. The 80th OPEC session is being convened at a time when all members concur on the price of $18 per barrel. The only difference is that the progressive OPEC group led by the Islamic Republic of Iran sees the $18 price as a stepping-stone to a price of $28 a barrel. The other members do not seem very insistent about achieving this objective.

despite the present concurrence on the $18 price, the members differ on the means of achieving such a level. Iran's strategy consists of reducing production, specifying a price index for OPEC based on one kind of crude, and assigning one floating producer. Of course, attempts to approve such methods have always met with bottlenecks. For example, decreased production demands specifying the production ceiling and quotas, and achieving an agreement on these points seems very difficult. In the present conditions of extreme financial pressure, none of OPEC'S members are willing to reduce their quotas. The main characteristic of Iran's strategy is to coordinate the objectives and the means of achieving them. There is a coterie within OPEC

opposed to this strategy which has so far been spearheaded by Saudi Arabia. This group has declared its willingness to adopt the $18 price but has identified no means for attaining it. The same clique suggested late last year a plan for netting a just share of the market or glutting the market with increased production, thus preparing the ground for plummeting oil prices.

Countries which have insisted on a just share of the market, led by Saudi Arabia, have not yet announced a change by relinquishing such a policy. Although some analysts have interpreted Yamani's removal as an indication of Saudi Arabia's inclination to reject overproduction, it does not seem that the replacement of one person can signal a change in Saudi Arabia's strategic or fundamental policy. The dismissal of one individual may be merely a part of a change in the overall strategy.

In any case, if we concede that Yamani's removal has no logical connection with the Saudi policy of a just share, the contradictions of such a strategy surface. How can a price increase be achieved with simultaneous insistence on the policy of a just share of the market and an oil glut? How can a change in the system of fixing OPEC prices — as recommended by the Quito session — and a change in quotas without reducing the production ceiling lead to higher prices? Under such conditions we must note that a change in OPEC's pricing system and reshuffling of quotas without a concomitant change in the production ceiling will pose a complex problem.

Eliminating ambiguities and contradictions and adopting acceptable means for reaching the $18 level are among the problems the 80th OPEC session must address. In this regard, this session may be deemed one of the most thorny in the history of this cartel. OPEC must raise its price in this session, because it has only a 2-month grace period — January and February 1987. This is a peak demand period because of cold weather. The onset of March and the warm season will negate all efforts to raise prices.

As for the $18 price, it does seem that the most powerful groups in the international oil market will be able to agree in reaching that level, and in view of numerous political and economic factors, it is being predicted that the OPEC price will stabilize at $18 for the next 2 of 3 years, paving the way for new changes. But the answers to whether and when the oil market can achieve an $18 level can be found only in the decisions made and steps taken by the groups wielding power in OPEC and in developments in the oil market.

Guards Corps To Supervise Customs Services

PM101523 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Dec 86 p 17

[Untitled report by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Excerpt] Esfahan — Supervision of all the country's customs is to be handed over to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] of the Islamic Revolution Committees [IRC].

This was announced by Commander of Iran's IRC Hojjat ol-Eslam Serajiedin Musavi at a seminar for IRC commanders in Esfahan.

Commenting on this issue, Musavi said: We need enough money to implement this plan. For example, of the 10.5 billion rials which constitute our budget this year, some 10.38 billion rials have been spent on monthly salaries for our personnel.

The IRC commander continued: Some 90 percent of IRC offices belong to the Foundation of the Oppressed and, despite their huge workload, the IRC's control only 10 percent of their legal offices. So, following consultations with the prime minister and confirmation from the Imam, it was decided that the locations for all IRC offices under the control of the Foundation of the Oppressed should be returned to the Committees.

Musavi said one of the main purposes of the Esfahan seminar was to discuss issues and shortcomings of the budgets for the current year and for 1987.

Concerning IRC actions Musavi said: The IRGC members of the Committees have managed to recover some 10 billion rials' worth of smuggled goods in Chah Bahar alone — which is significant.

He added: In order to teach the IRC brothers to behave correctly toward the public, the necessary coordination has been undertaken to set up a center in Qom where the brothers can learn their religious limitations with regard to their treatment of people before they start work. This way, there will be no further problems.

The seminar continued with a speech by one of the brothers discussing the budget for 1986 and 1987, its shortcomings, and the bill proposed by some Majlis deputies with regard to the creation of an organization to combat narcotics. He said: Since we expect the IRC to complete its given tasks to the best of its ability, we should also consider its finance as compared with other law enforcement agencies.

He added: During the current year we have taken three times as much as our Majlis-approved budget in donations in kind and have turned this sum into cash for spending. This indicates our need. [passage omitted]

Guards Corps Shells Umm Qasr, Al Bakr 11 Dec

LD111722 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 11, IRNA — Two Iraqi long-range guns were destroyed when the artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Forces targeted enemy armoured units at Umm Qasr, Thursday.

In another development IRGC coastal artillery units subjected Al-Bakr oil platform to its heavy fire, inflicting considerable damage and also preventing the enemy from landing fresh forces in the area.

Meanwhile, the Muslim combatants of Iran shelled the supply axis of the Iraqi forces in Val-Fajr-8 theatre, killing or wounding several Iraqi soldiers and destroying four vehicles.